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### 'Israel could act against nuclear Iran'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli member of parliament from the ruling Labour Party has warned that the Jewish state might have to act alone to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power unless the West acted first, the Israeli news agency Ithim said. "Western nations must know that if they do not do what is demanded in order to prevent Iranian nuclear power Israel could find itself in a situation where it would be forced to act on its own according to its considerations and security," Ithim quoted Ephraim Sneh, a member of the Knesset (parliament), as saying. Mr. Sneh, who serves on parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, was speaking to a gathering of Labour Party members. He said foreign estimates calculated Iran could have nuclear weapons capable of reaching Israel by the end of the decade. That, Ithim quoted him as saying, would pose an insurmountable risk to the existence of the Jewish state. In June 1992 General Herzl Bodinger, the head of Israel's air force, said the Jewish state could strike at any country that introduced nuclear weapons into the Middle East. Israel bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in June 1981. Foreign media and academic reports say Israel has nuclear weapons.



### German opposition leader quits

BONN (AFP) — The leader of Germany's main opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD), Björn Engholm, resigned Monday after admitting lying to a parliamentary inquiry about a smear campaign against him six years ago. The resignation deprives the SPD of its greatest hope for snatching the German chancellorship away from Helmut Kohl in elections due late next year. In a six-part statement released Monday afternoon, Mr. Engholm confirmed his evidence to the commission of inquiry into the so-called Barschel affair had called his political credibility into question. "Because of this incident... my political credibility has been put in question," said the 53-year-old politician. "Without this confidence, I can no longer represent either my province of Schleswig-Holstein or my party with the same impartiality and the same success as before," he said. The Barschel affair, during the September 1987 election campaign for Schleswig-Holstein between Mr. Engholm and Uwe Barschel, of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), was one of the biggest scandals in post-war Germany.

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### Israelis kill 4 in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed four Palestinians near the Bureij refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip Monday, an Israeli army spokesman said. The four victims were in a car which allegedly tried to run down border guards on a road block, the spokesman said.

## King: Jordan will continue to work for better Arab World

### His Majesty meets Palestinian delegation, Parliament speakers and celebrations panel

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday said Jordan would continue to contribute to transforming the Arab Nation from its present status to what it should be through the participation of everyone in shouldering responsibilities, democracy, political pluralism, respect for human rights and mutual respect between all members of the Jordanian family regardless of origins. In a meeting with a delegation representing the Palestinian peoples in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, King Hussein expressed confidence in the "inevitability of the triumph of the righteous side in the Arab-Israeli conflict," saying any peaceful settlement should be lasting and just, honourable and acceptable to future generations. "We will work with all our energies and capabilities for this kind of peace and we will pursue a new dawn to follow this long period of darkness," the King told the delegation which arrived in Amman last week to participate in the Kingdom's celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of his constitutional powers. The delegation includes mayors, heads of Islamic and Christian communities, and heads of trade unions and various associations. The King thanked the delegation members for their visit, saying links between Jordanians and Palestinians make the two peoples one family united in its aspirations and pains. The King thanked the delegation for the Dome of the Rock miniature they presented him as a gift on the occasion in gratitude for his donation of \$8.2 million for the reconstruction of the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem. He also lauded the steadfastness of Palestinians in their occupied lands and expressed hope that the day would come when they will be living on their national soil, enjoying their full rights. "Patience and perseverance in facing challenges will, by God's will, produce the aspired results," he said. The King said the Arab Nation was passing through a very difficult period and expressed confidence that it would achieve its aspirations and the Arabs would have their full rights in their great Arab Homeland. Jerusalem Mufti Suleiman Al Jabari and head of the charitable committee of Gaza Strip Mansour Al Shawwa delivered addresses in which they paid tribute to King Hussein's leadership and congratulated him on the anniversary in their names and on behalf of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The meeting, which was held at the Royal Court, was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq Zeid Ben Shakar, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Adel Irshaid. Earlier Monday, His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat who (Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with a delegation representing Palestinians in the occupied territories and (right) a national committee which organised this week's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of constitutional powers (Petra photo)

### Peace talks resume amid hopeful signs

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Middle East peace talks resumed Monday with bilateral sessions between Israeli and Arab delegations amid optimistic statements following a three-day weekend break. Bilateral talks opened at the State Department between Israel and delegations from Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. Another session involving Israeli and Jordanian delegations was scheduled for later Monday. Israel's delegation chief Elyakim Rubinstein said he expected serious discussions with the Palestinians following the formation of working groups on human rights, land and water and the definition of autonomy that Israel says it wants to grant the Palestinians. The ninth round of Arab-Israeli talks opened here last Tuesday, and the first week of resumed dialogue ended Thursday on an upbeat note, with both the Israelis and the Palestinians seeing real steps forward after a four-month suspension in the negotiations. Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini told Israel Radio from the United States Monday that he believed progress would be made during talks this week. "I believe there are indications something will happen this week," said Mr. Husseini, who heads a Palestinian steering committee over both bilateral and multilateral tracks of the negotiations. "Israel's negotiations with Jordan and Lebanon also have taken place in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, according to Israeli negotiators. We will the Lebanese delegation, the main issues have been prisoners held in Israel and the 'security zone' Israel occupies in southern Lebanon. The Israelis have said they would address the 'security zone' issue. Israeli-Syrian talks have remained focused on the conflict over the Golan Heights. The Syrians still are demanding that Israel commit to a 'total withdrawal' from the zone.

### Palestinians say they on 'listening mode'

By Nermeen Murad in Washington  
At first glance, the Israelis appear to have taken great strides towards accommodating Palestinian demands. They have agreed to set up three joint committees to discuss Palestinian human rights, land and water and a "concept committee" which will deal with various issues including jurisdiction and legislative powers. These committees were made even sweeter to the Palestinian negotiators when Palestinian experts from the diaspora were allowed to participate. Ahmad Al Khalidi was accepted as a member of the concept committee and Camille Mansour on the land and water committee. The Americans added a carrot of their own when they committed themselves to share information on Israeli settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories with the Palestinians, a demand that the negotiators have been haggling with the Americans over for the past year and a half. There is even more. The (Continued on page 5)

### Sarajevo generally quiet; 'ethnic cleansing' continues

SARAJEVO (AP) — Explosions and machine-gun fire decreased in the Bosnian capital early Monday, a day after the Bosnian Serb leader signed a U.N. peace plan. Although shelling could be heard before dawn in the western edge of the city and machine guns crackled near the U.N.-controlled airport, attacks were less frequent than in previous days. "There is a general air of cautious optimism," said U.N. spokesman Barry Frewer. U.N. officials said half the rounds apparently were fired by Bosnian government troops. In Sarajevo, Tony Land, an official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said Monday that minority Croats and Muslims were being forced from the Serb-controlled area of Banja Luka in an acceleration of "ethnic cleansing." He said after seven residents were killed in a short period of time, 150 Muslims from Vrbaniya's 3,000 residents were to be transferred Monday by local Red Cross officials to safety in central Bosnia. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signed the peace plan Sunday dividing Bosnia into 10 semi-autonomous provinces. His endorsement was subject to approval by the self-styled Bosnian-Serb assembly. But President Bill Clinton was still sceptical. "I want to evaluate them by their actions. We'll see what they do," Mr. Clinton said Monday in Washington. The American leader said the Western allies have agreed to "keep the pressure up and have a united front" against Bosnian Serbs, but he stopped short of saying they had agreed to his proposals for military action. Mr. Karadzic apparently yielded to threats of Western military President Slobodan Milosevic. "I believe our parliament will show the necessary understanding and we put down today," Mr. Karadzic told reporters Sunday before leaving Greece, where he agreed to the peace plan. "For us this is a great day, and may signal the beginning of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina," he added, sounding unusually optimistic. But his signature does not guarantee his compatriots will concur. Immediately after Mr. Karadzic signed, his assembly speaker, Momcilo Krajcinik, denounced the plan as unacceptable.

### Russia suggests U.N. panel on Lockerbie

CAIRO (Agencies) — Russia and Libya have suggested an international tribunal under U.N. auspices try two Libyans accused of the 1988 Pan Am airliner bombing that killed 270 people, Arab diplomats said Monday. Western governments said last month they might ask for new United Nations sanctions against Libya, including a possible oil embargo, to force it to hand over two nationals suspected of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. "Both Libya and Russia are proposing that an international court be established under the supervision of the (U.N.) Security Council to try the two Libyan suspects in a neutral country," one Arab diplomat told Reuters. Diplomats said the suggestion was a new attempt to end a year-old crisis between the West and Libya over the venue of a trial before sanctions came up for renewal in August. A Cairo-based Russian diplomat refused to comment on the proposal. Arab diplomats said there were no immediate signs the United States and Britain would accept the idea. Philippine President Fidel Ramos said Monday that Libya has asked the Philippines to support its appeal to lift the U.N. embargo imposed on it. "I assured Libya that we will study all of these matters very, very carefully since there are so many angles connected thereto," Mr. Ramos told reporters after meeting with Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Mun-tasar.

### France gropes for reasons of ex-premier's suicide

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand paid his respects Monday to Pierre Berégovoy as politicians and press debated whom to blame for driving the former premier to suicide. Mr. Berégovoy's body lay in state at the Val de Grace hospital in Paris. Several prominent figures, including Mitterrand advisers described as "stunned," visited the chapel throughout the day. The body was to be flown later to the central city of Nevers, where Mr. Berégovoy, 67, shot himself with his bodyguard's pistol. He was pronounced dead in Paris before he could undergo emergency brain surgery. The suicide has stunned the nation and left commentators groping to explain it. Blame has been directed at enemies, allies, media and investigators. Some have called for reform of the rough-and-tumble political system. "The suicide of Pierre Berégovoy should cause many people to at the very least examine their consciences," former Premier Laurent Fabius said in a letter to the newspaper Le Monde. Britain, Spain, Portugal, Algeria and Morocco sent condolences. Flowers from anonymous mourners appeared alongside the

### France gropes for reasons of ex-premier's suicide

quiet canal outside Nevers where Mr. Berégovoy put the gun to his head. French television announced plans for live coverage of Tuesday's funeral at Nevers, where Mr. Berégovoy had been mayor since 1983. A street was named for him in the town of his birth, Sotteville-les-Rouen. Newspapers traced Mr. Berégovoy's life from childhood as son of a Ukrainian immigrant to railroad worker and union activist, to two terms as finance minister before becoming premier in April 1992 to succeed the controversial Edith Cresson. The conservative daily Le Figaro summed up national shock over with a front-page editorial cartoon depicting Marianne, symbol of the French republic, asking "Why?" Mr. Berégovoy apparently left no suicide note. But press, politicians and psychologists agreed that he was depressed and under stress. "He had been crucified," said Jacques Delors, president of the European Community's Executive Commission, "not only because of the personal attacks, but because his policies were criticised, sometimes even by his friends."

## 14 exiles and families cross the bridge

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE — Rawhi Al Khatib, the Israeli-exiled mayor of Jerusalem, crossed the River Jordan Monday leading a group of 14 Palestinians and their families going back to their homes in the occupied territories after years of exile. The overriding sentiment expressed in the jubilant celebrations that preceded their departure was a conviction, derived from the Middle East peace process, that it is only a matter of time before the millions of Palestinians who remain in exile will be able to exercise their "right of return." The group was met at the bridge by a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories as Israel Television and army cameramen filmed the event, marking the first time the Israeli occupation authorities allowed such an event to take place at King Hussein Bridge. Farewell celebrations, with popular Palestinian songs to the accompaniment of bagpipes and drums and dances with swirling swords, were held at the Palestinian mission in Amman as well as the border control point a few kilometres from the bridge before the group departed. (Continued on page 2)  
"Returnees" go down in history, page 2



'Returnees' pose for a group photo at the King Hussein Bridge (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

### ANZ Grindlays Bank

AMMAN — The ANZ Bank Executive Director, International Banking-Aliester Maitland and ANZ's Regional General Manager, Middle East David Smith arrive in Amman on Tuesday 4 May for a three-day visit to Jordan. This will be the first visit to the region for Mr. Maitland who has had a long career in banking in Australia and New Zealand. He is now one of Australia's leading and most influential figures on economic matters relating to the banking and finance industry. He is looking forward to deepening his knowledge of the Jordanian economy at a time when both it and ANZ Grindlays Jordan are expanding. Mr. Maitland's programme will include meetings with senior Jordanian officials and



Mr. Aliester Maitland

### The Italian Embassy in Jordan and the Italian Institute for External Commerce

invite all Jordanian specialised companies to attend the "Technological Symposium on Medical Equipment" which will be held on May 15th and 16th, 1993 at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Amman starting 10:00 a.m. The Italian companies coming from Italy will present themselves and their products. For further information, please call the Second Secretary of the Italian Embassy in Amman, Dr. Raffaele de Benedictis (Ph. 638185, Fax 659730, P.O.Box 9800) or Dr. Hani H. Shaheen (MBF Representative, Ph. and Fax 683028, P.O.Box 926775, Amman)



## Iraq restricts foreign travel to prop up dinar

BAGHDAD (R) — The government imposed stiff duties Monday on Iraqis going abroad as part of its drive to prop up the value of the dinar, which fell to a record low against the U.S. dollar last week.

The cabinet, in approving the recommendations of a special ministerial committee, decreed that except for diplomats and their families and students Iraqi citizens will have to pay 15,000 dinars each time they leave the country.

That translates to about \$250 on the black market (and \$5,000 at the official rate, unchanged since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis) but is still a great deal of money in Iraqi terms.

The government, short of hard currency in its third year under tight United Nations trade sanctions, has limited means of intervening to strengthen the Iraqi currency.

When the dinar fell to 95 to the dollar, the government took an unannounced decision last Monday to stop buying dollars for vital imports. That brought the dinar up to 75 to the dollar but weakened as the special committee worked on further measures.

Newspapers said President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the council of ministers to "discuss the reasons and aspects related to the rate of exchange of the Iraqi dinar in relation to foreign currencies."

The cabinet then held what was described as an extraordinary meeting "to put the new measures into action."

A brief statement issued after the meeting did not specify the other measures endorsed by both the revolution command council and the cabinet.

But it said "suitable instructions have been issued to translate it (the study) into steps that must be applied and adhered to stringently."

"On the whole, these measures will inevitably lead to strengthening the value of the Iraqi dinar above its current rate," the statement said.

Baghdad travel agents said they expected a sharp decline in the number of Iraqis travelling to Jordan, the country's only outlet due to U.N. air travel sanctions.

Traders say currency speculation has also largely been restricted in Baghdad where people used to be seen changing money openly in parts of the capital.

The traders said the new travel duty sent the dinar up to 65 to the dollar from about 80 Sunday.

Cutting the number of Iraqis going abroad reduces demand for dollars, relieving pressure on the dinar.

Before the new duty was announced there were no special restrictions on citizens travelling abroad. Iraqis are legally allowed to take 300 and 1,000 Iraqi dinars with them when travelling abroad.

But some Iraqis try to make money by taking cigarettes, jewellery and other goods with them to sell in Jordan.

**Iraq wants to fly pilgrims**

Iraq wants to fly pilgrims to Mecca in and has asked neighbouring countries for use of their airspace, Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh said Monday.

Mr. Saleh said Tehran, Amman and Riyadh had been contacted to allow an Iraqi aircraft to fly Muslims to the annual pilgrimage, which this year takes place in the last 10 days of May.

"Most of the pilgrims are elderly. The journey overland is exhausting for them and during the last pilgrimage, some of them died while enroute," he told APT.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Besharati said Sunday that Tehran would consider the request.

## Pope calls on Iraqi Christians not to emigrate

BAGHDAD (R) — An emotional message from Pope John Paul II expressing his hope that Iraqi Christians remain in their country was read out at a Sunday mass in Iraq.

"Thousands of Christians have left Iraq, hit by U.N. trade sanctions after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and many are waiting on the Mediterranean island of Malta for other countries to consider their requests for asylum."

Many of the refugees perished in the snow capped mountains of Iraq Kurdistan in an exodus to Turkey at the start of the 1991 Gulf war. Others drowned when their boats capsized on their way from Turkey to Greece.

"I share the hope that they stay in this country to perpetuate the heritage fed by their ancestors," the Pope said, according to an Arabic translation of a message he addressed specifically to Iraqi Christians.

The message was delivered to the Chaldean patriarch, Rufael Badawad, by Papal envoy Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, prefect of Oriental Congregations at the Vatican.

Mr. Badawad read out the appeal to a small congregation at a mass in a spacious church courtyard south of Baghdad.

Mr. Silvestrini, arriving in Baghdad Saturday, has been given a warm welcome in Iraq. He is scheduled to meet Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

Iraqi Christians from all denominations were present at the mass. The message was the first public acknowledgement by the church's highest authorities of the number of Christians in Iraq was decreasing at an alarming rate.

"The whole church is in solidarity with you at the hour of



Pope John Paul II

your need," the Pope wrote. Dr. Yousif Habbi, Iraq's church historian, told Reuters that more than 100,000 Christians have left since the start of the crisis in the Gulf.

"Now we have about 200,000 Iraqi Christians in foreign countries," Dr. Habbi said.

The Pope said he hoped Iraq's "current painful conditions will change into prosperity for Iraq" and Iraqi Christians would be able to stay "to carry out (Christ's) message."

The number of Christians in Iraq has dropped to about 600,000. They are served by two patriarchs, 15 bishops and 160 priests. Church sources put the figure before the Gulf crisis at about 750,000.

In the aftermath of the Gulf war, eased travel restrictions and Christians started leaving in droves.

The hardships caused by U.N. are among the reasons Christians choose to emigrate.

## First batch of 'returnees' goes down in history

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The welcome with kisses, cheers, drums, Palestinian flags and ululations given to the first batch of Palestinian exiles who returned to the occupied territories on Friday, was the most festive event in the West Bank since 1967.

As if in a dream 15 Palestinian "exiles" became "returnees" almost over-night when their names were announced as the first expellees whose expulsion orders were rescinded by the Israeli authorities.

While they had all been told that their names were on "a list," none of them could have imagined what they saw when they returned to the homeland from which most of them had been forcibly separated for some 20 years.

"Regular" Israeli searching of suitcases and luggage took some two hours and the treatment of the "returnees" by Israeli border officials was "not exceptionally nice."

"We were not treated in a special way; it was standard procedure — a thorough search of all our belongings,

but no taking off of our clothes," said Salam Kana'an, daughter of returnee Faisal Kana'an of Nabulus.

While the Israeli search is commonplace for Palestinians entering the occupied territories from Jordan, the returnees were not prepared for the huge Israeli settlements that greeted them.

"I never expected them to be this huge," said Fayek Warad, who was expelled from his hometown of Al Taybeh in 1967.

The looks of bewilderment at seeing relatives they had never met could not be missed in the faces of the returnees.

"A whole generation is here that I have never met. It's incredible," said an amazed Hanan Nasir.

A still greater surprise was the uncontrollable, euphoric happiness with which the Palestinian crowds met the returnees.

Scores of young people sat on the roof of the bus while others broke the windows when the bus driver refused to open the door before reaching the main bus stop after the bridge.

Expelled mayor of Al Bireh Abdul Jawad Saleh and Musa Shakhshir of Nabulus where the first two to be carried out of the windows and onto the shoulders of a group of young men waiting to carry the returnees to a cheering crowd of some 3,000 people which had gathered to meet them at the hot and dusty bus station in Jericho.

"Who is this one? Who is this one?" shouted the teenage boys playing the drums in the open bus stop. Once their names were known, the songs heralding their return began.

"This is the happiest day of my whole life," said Mr. Saleh as youths carried him on their shoulders.

"Is this happening? Is this really happening? Are we really in Palestine?" asked teary-eyed Nasir as he hugged his two sisters and was pushed along by a singing crowd.

The names and faces of the "first 15" will forever remain imbedded in the minds of the Palestinians in the occupied territories as those who began what people believe will be a "wave of return."

"We will always remember these people because they were the first," said a drum-playing youth in Jericho.

The fact that none of the first batch or the second batch of returnees which departed for the occupied territories Monday belonged to Yasser Arafat's Fateh group seemed to lose its significance when returnee after returnee told crowds in Jericho, Ramallah, Al Bireh, Bir Zeit, Al Taybeh and Nabulus that they had the intifada and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership to thank for their return.

"It is thanks to the intifada and the efforts of our leadership in Tunis that our return to the homeland was possible," said Faisal Kana'an, a pan-Arab activist who was expelled from his hometown of Nabulus in the early 1970s.

Thousands of pictures of Mr. Arafat decorated placards and walls all over the West Bank over the weekend. Other prominent although less numerous placards featured Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine chief Nayef Hawatmeh and Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine head George Habbash.

Mr. Arafat, the PLO chairman, spoke by phone from Tunis to a crowd of about 7,000 people who had assembled in the football field of the Rawda school in Ramallah to welcome back the returnees on Friday.

With the telephone receiver attached to a loudspeaker, Mr. Arafat congratulated the deportees on their return and assured the crowd that with members of the Palestine National Council on "the soil of Palestine statehood is not far behind."

Although his voice was hardly audible, the crowds cheered and whistled as they heard Chairman Arafat's voice.

Eight of last Friday's returnees are PNC members. Palestinians crowded rooftops, balconies and walls to welcome back their returnees.

Speech after speech given by local union and party organizers as well as the returnees praised the peace talks, but warned that the return of 30 exiles should mark a new beginning and not be considered an accomplishment in and of itself.

Not a single returnee failed to mention first and foremost their insistence that the 396 exiles in Marj Al Zuhour must be unconditionally returned.

"The PLO has come home," said Dr. Nasir, President of Bir Zeit University.

Addressing some 2,500 students on the campus of the university Saturday, Dr. Nasir said "The PLO's main base is not in Tunis, it is right here in occupied Palestine."

Dr. Nasir is expected to return immediately to his work as university president. Other returnees will be slow in returning to the jobs and positions they left behind some 20 years ago.

"I would like to stay home, write and be with my family," said Mr. Saleh in his home in Al Bireh. Hundreds of members of the Al Bireh community however, were expecting Dr. Saleh to take up his position as mayor again.

"I will have to respect the wishes of the people, but I would not take up the position of mayor unless there were elections," Dr. Saleh told the Jordan Times Saturday.

## Conservatives, socialists to rule Yemen

SANAA (AP) — The conservative General Peoples Congress is moving towards forming another coalition government with the socialists after winning the most seats in last week's parliamentary elections.

Islamic fundamentalists also made a strong showing in Tuesday's multiparty elections, which were a rarity in a region dominated by royal rule.

With results declared in all but three districts, the GPC had 121 seats in the 301-member parliament. The fundamentalists Al Islah came second with 62 seats about half the strength of the congress.

The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled the former Marxist South Yemen before unification three years ago, garnered 56 seats.

But a YSP source said Sunday that a number of independent candidates who won seats would

formally join the socialist group, raising party strength to 70 seats to put it ahead of Islah.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's GPC and the YSP, led by Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, have ruled the country in coalition since the merger.

Both leaders said before the election that they would form a coalition, but Mr. Saleh left the door open for other parties to join the government as well.

Reflecting its strength in the balloting, Islah is expected to be offered some ministerial portfolios although it is not yet clear which ones or how many.

The GPC and the YSP hold 177 seats and also have the backing of some 30 "independent" members of parliament who are known to be sympathizers.

Other parties that won seats are the pro-Iraqi Baathists, with seven, Nasserites with three seats and another religious group,

Haq, with two.

The overall popular vote figures for each party have not been released. Some 2.7 million people, including half a million women, registered to vote in this country of 14 million people.

Parliament is to convene within two weeks to elect a presidential council, which in turn will appoint a president of the republic, before the new government can be chosen. There is little doubt that Mr. Saleh will win a new term.

Islah and other opposition parties charged the ruling parties with election abuses, including fielding "independents" who turned out to be government supporters.

They also accused the ruling parties of making unfair use of government-owned news media and inflating voter rolls to their advantage.

Islah is led by two powerful leaders, Abdul Majeed Al Zindani and Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheikh Abdullah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Islah has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work within the system."

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## Exiles, families return home

(Continued from page 1)

The group joined 15 other exiles who returned to the occupied territories Thursday after the occupation authorities agreed to accept a total of 30 Palestinians banished from their homeland at various points in time since 1967.

One exile was delayed in Bulgaria and is expected to travel later, Palestinian sources said.

Prominent among those who crossed Monday were Walid Kamhawi, a surgeon and former member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, and Kamal Dajani, a lawyer who has served as Jordan's interior minister in the 1970s.

Family members and PLO officials, including Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim and activists, accompanied the exiles to the bridge for emotional farewells and promises of reunions in a free Palestine.

The group of exiles and well-wishers crowded the celebrations with a rendition of the Palestinian national anthem a few metres from the bridge but within the earshot of Israeli soldiers on the other side.

Activists of PLO factions which oppose the Arab-Israeli peace talks also attended the celebrations in what one Palestinian source described as a gesture to "underline the importance of this popular event regardless of political differences."

Conspicuous by their absence were activists of Muslim fundamentalist movements whose many members and supporters remain stranded in South Lebanon after their expulsion from the occupied territories in December.

Loud applause broke out as the blue and white Jordanian bus carrying the exiles crossed the rickety, 20-metre-long bridge over the shallow waters of the River Jordan under the watchful eyes of Israeli soldiers and officers.

The Israeli permission to allow the return of 30 was part of a compromise package arranged by Washington to bring back the Palestinian delegation to the negotiating table in the Middle East peace process.

Palestinian officials have said that Israel has also undertaken to allow groups of 30 to 50 Palestinian exiles to return home on a regular basis as part of "confidence-building measures."

Mr. Khatib told reporters that his two sons, students in London and Beirut, would have to wait until he gets Israeli clearance for them. Several other "returnees" faced similar procedures.

In pre-departure comments, Mr. Khatib, who was expelled by the occupation power in 1969, said he did not recognise Israeli-imposed changes in the status of Jerusalem and that for all practical purposes he continued to consider himself as mayor of the Holy City.

"I am the legitimate mayor of Jerusalem and I retain that capacity as I return home," he said.

Mr. Khatib, 67, wearing a black headscarf and gripping a cane in his arthritic hands, rejected a reported offer by the Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, of what the Jewish state described as "united Jerusalem," to make him a member of his council, and also criticised moves to set up an Arab municipal council in the Holy City.

"It is our wish to establish an Arab municipal council (in Jerusalem) but only after the liberation of Palestine and total separation from the Jews," he said.

Mr. Khatib also rejected a reported Israeli plan to allow Palestinian residents of Arab East Jerusalem to vote on an autonomy plan as part of the peace process as long as they do not seek office and have an address outside Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem is the heart of Palestine," he said. "There cannot be any separation between Jerusalem and Palestine, and the Arab citizens of Jerusalem will insist on their rights, including the right to vote and to nominate themselves."

**Jordan Times**  
Tel.: 667171

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Omniscience
18:30	Maguy
19:00	News in French
19:15	Ushuala
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Beasties About
21:10	Forever Green
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature Film
PRAYER TIMES	
04:17	Fajr
05:43	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:32	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:22	Maghrib
20:48	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632783	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 635441	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625276	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 649812	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638526	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman	8 / 23
Aqaba	17 / 32
Deserts	5 / 26
Jordan Valley	15 / 30
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh	827195
Dr. Bassam Al Karadseh	796200
Dr. Jam' Abu Diab	748948
Dr. Khalil Khalil	740740
Firas pharmacy	661912
Pedrows pharmacy	778336
Al Astana pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	626072
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shumaisan pharmacy	637660
Nairoukh pharmacy	626072
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Shuqairi	(-)
Alkops pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Hussain Hussain	(-)
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Roscoe Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	845402
Traffic Police	985300
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	602800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
Repairs:	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	880100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815015
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn.	642401/6
Alkhalil Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	643642
Malhas, J. Amman	63





His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with visiting Belgian External Trade Minister Robert Urbain (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Belgium explore new trade, cultural avenues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday met at the Royal Court with visiting Belgian Minister of External Trade Robert Urbain and discussed economic relations between Jordan and Belgium.

Belgium's role at the head of the European Community (EC) rotating presidency which starts in July also came under discussion at the meeting attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Khaled Al Karaki, Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour, as well as Jordan's Ambassador to Belgium Talal Al Hassan and Belgian Ambassador to Jordan Pierre du Muelenaere.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday expressed Jordan's keenness to promote its relations with Belgium.

The on-going international developments require that nations step up their cooperation in all fields in order to benefit their people and attain further progress, said the prime minister at a separate meeting in his office with the visiting Belgian trade delegation.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour, the two sides reviewed Jordanian-Belgian trade and economic relations and the current ties between Jordan and the European Community (EC).

They also reviewed the agenda of a joint Jordanian-Belgian Economic Commission which opened meetings in Amman Monday to explore new avenues for promoting trade links between the two countries.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the commission is directing its efforts primarily towards bolstering bilateral cooperation in trade and industry, with Jordan benefiting from European expertise in agricultural, technical and technological fields.

Earlier, Mr. Urbain met with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and reviewed Jordanian-Belgian relations, the situation in the Middle East and regional and international issues of concern to the two sides.

Dr. Abu Jaber stressed the important role of the EC promoting efforts for peace in the region.

Before the meetings with the prime minister and foreign minister, Dr. Ensour and Mr. Urbain opened talks to discuss ways for increasing trade links between Belgium and Jordan.

According to Petra, the two sides expressed their belief that Jordanian fruits and vegetables can be sold in Belgian markets, especially produce that can be grown in Jordan all-year-round.

Discussions also covered the exchange of other national products and the prospect of establishing Jordan as a centre for exporting Belgian goods to other

countries in the region, while Belgium would reciprocate with the export of Jordanian national products to Europe, Petra added.

The talks stressed the need for the two countries to launch cooperative endeavours in cultural and information fields and to explore prospects for cooperation in energy and mining.

The Belgian official said his country would be interested in increased trade and joint investment projects.

Present at the meeting were the presidents of the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry as well as the director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) who outlined their departments' efforts in selling Jordanian products. They also reviewed areas for investments in the country.

Technical teams from both sides met later to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, tourism, culture and information fields.

According to Petra, Belgium and Jordan are linked by a 1976 trade and economic agreement, but the balance of trade is heavily in favour of Belgium which sells Jordan milk powder, feed concentrates, medicines, garments, tractors, machines and auto and aircraft spare parts.

Jordan sells limited amounts of fruits and vegetables to the Belgian markets.

The talks will continue today.

## Queen urges realistic development policies at University of Jordan population conference

By Samsan Ghosheh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday delivered the keynote address at the opening session of a two-day conference on "Population Changes and Development Policies" organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. The Queen stressed the need for Jordan to develop its own national strategy that addresses the population challenge.

Queen Noor stated that "the population challenge should compel us to identify and address its root causes in an integrated and effective manner, in order to promote sustainable national development, regional integration and stability, and international peace."

She described the population issue as being "paradoxical" explaining that "it encompasses all that we hold dear in the form of precious human life — life that we honour as an expression of God's bounty and as the basic wealth of our community. However, it also threatens our quality of life as individuals and as a national community, because of serious imbalances between our rapidly expanding populations, our finite natural resources and our economic capacities."

Shortages in resources such as water, arable land, food, shelter, employment opportunities and social services have become evident in our society, Queen Noor added.

She said the significant population growth in the Arab World since the early 1970s has limited the ability of the Arab countries to provide for their citizens and led to deterioration of the quality of life in them.

Queen Noor maintained that "the countries of the region, Jordan included, have only barely managed to provide the basic social and economic needs of their people by borrowing heavily

Despite the economic problems of the Arab countries, according to recent statistics, these countries continue to have a relatively high population growth rate.

Queen Noor said that "current projections anticipate that the population of the Middle East will reach 450 million people by the year 2020, and will only stabilise when it reaches some 700 million people by the middle of the next century."

She stressed that "... the urgent and momentous issues of Arab population growth, natural resources, economic growth and genuine stability and security must be discussed on a regional basis."

In addition, she called upon the participants at the conference to concentrate their energies and expertise "on defining a realistic new set of national development principles that could transform our current population dynamics from a potential problem to a firm promise — from a cause of tension due to resource imbalances, to a force for productivity and stability ... to rise to the challenge that defines Jordan today: to evolve our phase (era) of nation-building to an era of national sustenance."

Queen Noor affirmed the important role the University of Jordan and the Centre for Strategic Studies play as "dynamic participants in the Jordanian and pan-Arab quest for genuine and sustainable development that reflects the twin imperatives of national dignity and human decency."

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh said he "hopes this conference will provide a forum for the exchange of opinions and ideas ... to enable policy-makers to plan for a better future."

Striking a balance between population growth and the available jobs and resources were the central theme in papers presented by other participants in the first and second sessions.

### Development of Human Resources

The first session, entitled "Population and the Development of Human Resources," mainly addressed the imbalance between the supply of labour and the demand of the market.

Ahmad Husban, an official at the Ministry of Higher Education, said Jordan has one of the highest percentages in the world of youth between the age of 18 and 24 who attend universities.

The reasons behind this demand for higher education, he explained, are the belief that this education will improve their economic situation and the social value system present among Jordanians that believe in the superiority of higher education.

Dr. Husban stressed that the rate of unemployment is not related to the standard of education in Jordan.

Hussein Shakhateh, an official from the Ministry of Planning, provided statistics that indicated the imbalance present between the supply of university graduates and the demand of the market due to the increase in population. He said Jordanian universities graduate approximately 10,000 students annually, but the market needs only 5,000 graduates.

Yet, Dr. Shakhateh stated that Jordan imports unskilled labour to perform technical jobs,



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday delivers the keynote address at a conference on "Population Change and Development Policies," sponsored by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. On the podium are

(right to left) Upper House of Parliament Member Layla Sharaf, Centre for Strategic Studies Director Mustafa Hamarneh, and University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (Petra photo)

which Jordanians are unwilling to carry out due to their higher level of education.

He added that 62 per cent of job opportunities in Jordan do not require a secondary level of education.

Munther Al Masri, an official from the Ministry of Education, focused on the gap present between the Jordanian educational system and its economic situation.

"The educational system is more developed than the economic conditions," he maintained, thus, the lack of conformity between the needs of the market and result of the education system.

Dr. Masri also spoke of an inverted pyramid which characterizes the Jordanian labour market. He explained that 66 per cent of students who attend secondary education go into academic streams and 33 per cent choose technical fields — the opposite of the labour market found in the developed world. Thus, Dr. Masri said, the system produces more academicians than required and less technicians than required.

The session, chaired by Minister of Labour, Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, allowed time for discussion among speakers and attendees, in order to formulate recommendations to solve this problem and to produce a strategy for the development of human resources, such as providing incentives for those who choose to enter the technical fields and using the media to change people's perceptions of technical jobs.

Population, Natural Resources and the Environment

The second session, entitled "Population, Natural Resources and the Environment," pointed to the environmental problems

that have resulted from population growth and shifts.

Amr Al Mousasher, president of the United Arab Democratic Party, said the rise in population increases the demand for limited resources and negatively affects the environment.

He believed that the developed countries, who only compose one-fifth of the world population and consume four-fifths of its resources should help the developing countries by transferring their technology and by forgiving the debt of the latter.

Mr. Mousasher also offered other steps which, he maintained, need to be taken to reduce the population growth, such as increasing education, family planning, and ensuring equality between men and women.

Mohammad Alawneh, member of the Lower House of Parliament, disagreed that natural resources are limited, saying that this would undermine the ability of God.

He said Jordan has the capacity to become self-sufficient if a political decision was adopted to use the available resources and to provide incentives for production. "If this happens there will be no problems, now or in the next million years," he added.

Ahmad Al Dissi, professor of biology at the University of Jordan, said with the rise of population, Jordan has seen a rise in the consumption of fossil fuel, diesel and benzene, all of which have increased air pollution dramatically. For example, he stated, more than 40 per cent of the sulphur produced in Jordan is in Zarqa, the second most populated city after Amman. Dr. Dissi added that sulphur has a poisonous effect and to be present in one area produces health hazards and environmental dangers.

Alia Hatook, professor of biology at Yarmouk University, said the sessions was the need to establish national study centres, to provide information and statistics, which are unavailable to researchers, scientists and policy-makers.

## King receives cable from U.S. president

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a cable of congratulations from U.S. President Bill Clinton on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of constitutional powers.

The U.S. president said the anniversary commemorates Jordan's considerable accomplishments under His Majesty's reign and expresses Jordan's confidence in the future.

On this occasion, Mr. Clinton said, "we also recall that your reign in Jordan has marked a period of close and mutually beneficial relations between the United States and Jordan."

"Over the last 40 years," Mr. Clinton said, "Jordan has made great progress by pursuing policies of moderation, pluralism, tolerance and free-market economic development."

He added that King Hussein's "efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace through direct negotiations with Israel have also boosted the prospects for early progress on the path to peace."

President Clinton said he looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

King continues to receive good wishes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received cables of good wishes congratulating him on the 40th anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional powers. The cables were sent by the head of the Provisional Government in Eritrea, the Queen of Denmark, the Pakistani President, the Philippine President and the Secretary General of the OIC.

## Zarqa opens new telephone service centre

ZARQA (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) last year installed 2,932 new telephone lines for subscribers in the Zarqa region, raising the total number of lines operating there at present to 28,288, according to Zarqa TCC Director Mahmoud Warikar.

He said the TCC now has 5,400 applications for telephone lines and the number of applications continues to grow.

Mr. Warikar was speaking during an opening ceremony for the "Telephone Subscribers Centre" in Zarqa attended by TCC Director General Ahmad Nawawi.

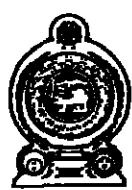
The new centre will offer various services, Mr. Warikar said, adding that subscribers can also pay their bills, send telegrams and make international calls at the Zarqa centre.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suhla Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by Syrian artist Aktham Abdul Hameed at Basmala Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Youssef Abdelke at Al Balka's Gallery, Al Fuhais city.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Bluch and Margaret M. Bluch at the American Centre.
- ★ Save the Children Designer Showcase: Exhibition of rugs, quilts, cushions, wallhangings, picture frames, lamp shades, leather handbags, canvas tote bags, natural olive oil soap, collector's dolls, food, embroidered fashionwear, baskets and seating; all manufactured by the Bani Hamida and the Jordan River Designs projects. The exhibition is at a new building next to the Business Bank, between Mukhabarat Bridge and the Prime Ministry (4th Circle), Queen Noor Street.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

The honorary Consulate of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Amman.

announces with great sorrow the death of President

## Ranasinghe Premadasa

following a regrettable incident which killed him on Saturday, May 1, 1993 in Colombo while he was attending Labour Day celebrations.

A condolences register will be opened at the consulate, in Jabal Amman, First Circle, as of Monday, May 3, 1993, until Thursday, May 6, 1993, from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.

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► MAMA MIA RESTAURANT  
► FROST



## Jordan Times

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## Deadly traffic

WHEN 55 per cent of Jordanian drivers are involved in road accidents at one time or another, then something is terribly wrong with traffic in Jordan. A recent survey has revealed that most of those found to have committed traffic accidents were males; almost half of them had held driving licences for more than 10 years and about half of traffic violators were guilty of speed limits violations.

These figures paint a gloomy picture of the traffic situation in the country and the way it is managed. That means that the Kingdom's traffic rules, their enforcement and culture leave much to be desired. It also means that the people who are manning the traffic departments across the country need to rearrange traffic priorities and review the procedures for issuing drivers licence. Otherwise the country will continue to dish out licences to kill innocent people on the streets and highways of the nation.

The first thought that comes to mind is the proposition that traffic policy-makers may need a new sense of orientation by becoming exposed to more advanced and enlightened traffic policies. There is nothing wrong in sending senior traffic department personnel to foreign lands to get acquainted with the latest policies and technologies on how to manage traffic.

Left as it is, the road accidents rate in the country will continue to rise in proportion to the increase in the number of motor vehicles and the number of motorists who will operate them. Translated into economic terms, not to mention human terms, the price tag could be staggering for a country trying desperately to stand on its feet and become self-reliant.

It is obvious that any overhaul of the traffic situation in the country should target two categories of people: The motorists themselves and the traffic police. The performance of both parties is simply dismal and the record shows it. The sooner we realise that the way we are conducting ourselves as drivers and traffic police is lacking in many ways the sooner we can find an answer to the growing carnage on the state's arteries.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BETWEEN 1953 and 1993 Jordan has indeed achieved a miracle of development under King Hussein's Rule, and this is a fact known to the citizens of the country and beyond, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. The paper said that over the past 40 years the Jordanian people have been led by King Hussein in building schools and hospitals, setting up factories and universities, constructing roads and other edifices that speak of the great endeavours and the diligence of the people of this country. King Hussein's rule was in fact a continuous process of hard work, sacrifice and hope exercised and achieved by his people under his wise leadership, added the paper. Having achieved so much progress over the past four decades, it is hard for us to describe how things were long time ago and it is difficult to make our children understand that we lived without the asphalted roads, the piped water and the electricity we enjoy today, the paper continued. By celebrating 40 years of the King's rule the Jordanian people ought to talk about the hardships, the poverty, the meagre resources and other difficulties their fathers and forefathers had gone through at the start of the King's rule 40 years ago, said the paper. The paper expressed the Jordanians' affection and allegiance to the Hashemite throne, wishing the King continued health and happiness and success in the leadership of his country towards further progress.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour called the government's attention to the pitiable conditions of the bedouin tribes and residents of settlements in the remote south. The majority of these people lacks proper medical attention, sufficient water and food supplies and live in abject poverty, said Taher Al Udwan. The writer drew the authorities' attention to the fact that most people in the remote regions of southern Jordan suffer from Tuberculosis and are in need of urgent help. He said that a brave and not expensive plan can save these peoples' lives and the construction of roads leading to the main highways can help the bedouins reach the nearest town to acquire the needed services. The writer said he had toured part of the south and found these people living in miserable conditions, adding that some, like those living in the village of Khaledeh, continue to suffer from the dangerous effects of the phosphate dust and gas, especially during the summer time. While Jordan continues to participate in all international efforts to fight pollution, its southern regions continue to suffer most from a polluted environment which tends to endanger their lives, the writer said. He called on the government to allocate sufficient funds aimed at dealing with the pockets of abject poverty, Tuberculosis and pollution in the south.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Palestinian thoughtfulness triumphs over humiliation

The return home of 30 deported Palestinian leaders and activists this week, as part of the deal to resume the Arab-Israeli peace talks, is a very significant symbol of the trend of small but incremental Palestinian victories that will increasingly dominate the negotiations and political conditions in Palestine/Israel. The trend I have in mind, put in its simplest terms, is the conditional triumph of Palestinian national rights, patience, and rational diplomacy over the predatory threats of Zionist colonialism.

I call this a conditional victory because it is not a total or absolute triumph. It is conditional on Palestinian and pan-Arab acceptance of the state of Israel. The symbolism of the return of the 30 deportees derives from several factors, including: a) the move resulted from some rather sophisticated Palestinian diplomatic brinkmanship that revolved around whether the peace negotiations would resume or not; b) this is one of the few times that Israel has reversed decisions which it said it had taken out of "national security" concerns; c) the repatriated Palestinians are all significant grassroots community leaders who are deeply politicised and who will strengthen the national infrastructure, especially the capacity of Palestinians to assume authority over all aspects of their lives (as the interim self-government arrangement anticipates); and d) the return of the Palestinian leaders coincides with a historic withdrawal of Zionism from the geographical periphery of Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza).

All of these factors strike me as very important, if one accepts the theory, as I do, that we are in the midst of the historical checking of Zionist expansionism. The return of the deportees, following Israel's revival of the green line that separates Israel from the West Bank and Gaza, is a sign of the slow, steady birth of the state of Palestine. This is the consequence of three distinct realities: the authenticity and durability of the Palestinian Arab identity as manifested over the years by its leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the dramatic message of freedom that has emanated from the intifada, and the peace negotiations that started in October 1991.

It is ironic, therefore, that at this moment of progress for Palestinian rights there should be such strong expressions of scepticism about the peace talks by Palestinians in Palestine and throughout the diaspora. This scepticism reached its height when the 415 pro-Hamas activists were expelled to southern Lebanon last December, and it caused many Palestinians to take the emotional and hasty position that the peace talks would only resume when the mass expulsion was reversed.

Well, the talks have resumed, and the remaining 396 have not returned home yet, but there is progress in other fronts. The lesson of all this, I would suggest, is that the struggle for Palestinian and Arab rights should be conducted in the diplomatic context in which we have some power, leverage, and credibility — rather than on the battlefield of emotional rejectionism and political absolutism, where Israel has not only defeated us consistently, but has also made us look childish and politically immature.

The reason for the widespread Palestinian scepticism about the negotiations, I suspect, is simple and very natural political emotionalism. Israel and Zionism have defeated us physically to date, in the sense that they have occupied all of Palestine and some other Arab lands as well. But they have not defeated us

spiritually or politically, as evidenced by the sustainability of the Palestinian national struggle since the early days of this decade and also by the small gains we have made recently.

It is very difficult for the average Palestinian to admit that we have to give up three-fourths of the geography of our ancestral homeland in order to enjoy our rights on the one-fourth of Palestine that we expect to retain and to rule as a sovereign Palestinian Arab state. There is a deep human fear that lurks

**"We have accepted to live in one-fourth of our ancestral lands, next door to an Israeli state, but only on the condition that the quality of Palestinian rights be equal to that of all others in the region, whether Israelis or Arabs."**

behind the full political meaning of the peace talks and of an eventual peace accord in which the Palestinians only get the West Bank and Gaza. The human fear is that of humiliation. Palestinians do not want to accept the facts of the world as they are, a world in which we Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese have entered into peace negotiations whose ground rules were largely written by Israel and the United States, with a

**"There is no humility in talking peace, in negotiating on the basis of principles accepted by the whole world or in making compromises that can end the century of warfare in Palestine and usher in a new century of stability, human development and communal peace."**

little bit of mumbo-jumbo mutterings about the U.N., the E.C. and the Russian cosponsors to make the talks appear balanced and bathed in the glow of international legitimacy.

In such a context, it is much easier to express scepticism about the peace talks than to accept the rigours and the challenges of peace-making based on compromise and less-than-absolutist gains. It is much easier, and emotionally and politically undemanding, to complain that the peace talks are simply a facade behind which the U.S. and Israel will achieve their own objectives, and, at best, give the Arabs the crumbs that are left over.

The threat of humiliation, however, is a poor negotiating parameter, and an unwelcome historical companion. The PLO, the Palestinians and other Arabs who support the peace talks have demonstrated recently that they will not mortgage the

national rights of five million Palestinians and the future of many more millions of Palestinians to the short-term emotional fears of other fellow Palestinians and Arabs who lack the vision required to see a Palestinian state take shape, and who also lack the composure to make that state happen through diplomatic bargaining.

The return of the 30 deported Palestinian leaders is a small symbol in a larger struggle, a little victory in a big battle. But it is important because it provides some tangible proof that the peace talks will achieve results, and that there is reason for Palestinians to cheer for their country as they see it reconstituted before their eyes. The key to full victory — a Palestinian state that can enter into confederal relations with the adjacent state of Jordan — is to slay the spectre of humiliation that Zionism would hang over our heads.

The key to victory is more of the same sort of self-confidence that the Palestinians and the PLO have shown since 1973, when they accepted the principle of the partition of Palestine into Israeli and Arab states. We have accepted to live in one-fourth of our ancestral lands, next door to an Israeli state, but only on the condition that the quality of Palestinian rights be equal to that of all others in the region, whether Israelis or Arabs.

The key to victory is to persevere in promoting the process of Zionist withdrawal from parts of Palestine, and the birth of strong Palestinian institutions. There is no humility in talking peace, in negotiating on the basis of principles accepted by the whole world or in making compromises that can end the century of warfare in Palestine and usher in a new century of stability, human development and communal peace. There is no humility in providing the Palestinians with a small state that can act as the guarantor of their human, legal and political rights, that can offer them passports and legal protection.

The Israelis would like us to give in to the fear of humiliation, so that we surrender unconditionally to their dictates or quit the peace talks in a display of diplomatic immaturity and self-flagellation. But neither of these things will happen. The Palestinians have remained firm in focusing on the essence of the peace talks — an Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands, and a transfer of authority to the Palestinians in an interim self-governing phase, before final status talks are launched after three years.

This is good politics, and it also makes good emotional sense. The PLO and the many Palestinians and Arabs who back it should make their support for this policy more clear and more vocal, so that the loud voices of the sceptics do not drown out a majority of rational, patient and sensible Arabs who can smell victory. The PLO, with prodding, support, understanding, and cooperation from Jordan and other Arabs, has been courageous and prudent at the same time, and its policies are starting to pay off in diplomatic terms. This is a good moment, therefore, to assess the track record of the last half a century, to shun the politics of emotionalism and shame and to build on the self-confident legacy of Palestinian diplomacy that succeeds because it reflects the basic communal thoughtfulness and political strength of the Palestinian people and their Arab brothers and sisters.

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By Rami G. Khouri

## Croatia — unstable stage of 'forgotten war'

By Allison Smale  
The Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia — If the West intervenes militarily against Serbs in Bosnia, nobody will be happier than the Serbs' deadly foe, the Croats.

By the logic of my enemy's enemy-is-my-friend, Croatia is likely to view western action against the Serbs as support for Croatia's own war against Serbian forces.

Whether the West will want to embrace Croatia as an ally is less certain.

Although less frequently than Serbs, Croat forces have torched homes, "cleansed" villages and slaughtered Serb and Muslim civilians in Croatia and Bosnia. For that matter, there have been similar actions by Muslims against both Croats and Serbs.

Though Croatia's leaders strongly favour western attacks against the Serbs, the West may shy at being seen as an ally of Croatia's ruling party. The party is dangerously split between former communists and extreme right-wing nationalists, who hark back to the World War II fascist regime that slaughtered Serbs, Jews and Gypsies. The party has also been accused of corruption.

Croatia has been independent for 20 months, since the old Yugoslavia broke up. More than a quarter of it is under Serb occupation, overseen by U.N. peacekeepers whose sole job is to keep fighting from flaring again. In a 40-minute interview, Stipe Mesic, head of parliament and a top figure in President Franjo Tudjman's ruling Croatian Democratic Union, repeatedly urged the West to bomb the Serbs. Failure to do so, he said, amounts to endorsing their land grab.

If the world fails to win back Serb-occupied territory, he said, "Croatia will have to do it."

Croatia launched a short-lived offensive Jan. 22 against Serbian positions, shattering a year of relative peace. Now battles rage daily between Serbs and Croats once again.

"The situation in the southern part of Croatia is enormously dangerous," said Cedric Thornberry, a senior U.N. civilian official in former Yugoslavia. "There's a real danger of escalation. This is one of the forgotten wars."

Meanwhile, Croats of all political parties insist they won't rest until Croatia is free of occupation.

"Occupied territories must be liberated," said Bozo Kovacic, general secretary of the Social Democrats. "In its actual form, Croatia cannot function."

Although the offensive brought



Serb shells once more crashing down on their heads, many Croats profess to support it and are disappointed it wasn't more ambitious.

Since 1991, says Paul Beaver of Jane's Sentinel in London, Croatia has spent \$250 million on arms. According to the weekly Globus, the infant state can now manufacture most of the weapons it needs, save sufficient supplies of ammunition.

Media reports say a third of the 1993 budget will go to the army. Meanwhile, there are thousands of Zagreb residents who rise before dawn to queue for coarse "black bread" and don't know how to cope with recent price increases averaging 50 per cent on a wide range of essential goods and services.

Still, nationalism is the dominant political theme. The policy of pouring scarce resources into weapons instead of offering more help to 250,000 Croat refugees or mending a ruined economy is rarely questioned.

Premier Nikica Valentic has no solution. "We are a state that unfortunately can guarantee its citizens only bread, milk and energy," he says.

But the corruption which topped Mr. Valentic's predecessor in March still appears rife.

Four days after an interview in which Mr. Mesic extolled privatisation, the weekly Globus printed documents showing his daughter bought into a cement factory in her father's native east Croatia for 1 million German marks (\$600,000) in cash.

Government ministers are said to own firms with exclusive contracts to supply the armed forces. Mr. Tudjman lives in a villa he bought for 200,000 marks (\$120,000) after the government spent 10 times that renovating it.

Public opinion, conditioned by tightly controlled government TV, "doesn't matter too much," said Mr. Kovacic. "People expect the politicians to misuse

their power."

Politicians are more beholden to each other than the public, and are therefore threatened by the split in Mr. Tudjman's party. That split also can affect Croatia's war efforts.

Although a formal division exists between Croatia and Bosnian Croats, there is close cooperation. Nationalists in Mr. Tudjman's party appear to be particularly close to Croatian forces in Bosnia.

Bosnian Croats engaged last week in bitter fighting with their nominal Muslim allies in the Bosnian army. Reports of atrocities by both sides were widespread.

Extremist Croat groups outside any Croatian control were seen in "full regalia, Nazi flashes, nasty stuff" in central Bosnia, Mr. Thornberry said, noting that irregular extremist Muslims also engaged in fighting and atrocities.

The long-simmering conflict in the ruling party between an extreme nationalist wing, which counts the support of many rich emigre Croats, and ex-communists like Mr. Tudjman, burst into public view April 23.

In an interview with Globus, Josip Boljkovac, a former Tudjman ally and senior policeman under the communists, branded the right wing "an extreme, sick group of people which wants power at any cost."

Although the government has cracked down on right-wing extremists outside the party, nationalists inside are considered so dangerous that intellectuals find themselves supporting people like Mr. Boljkovac.

In a state short of respected laws and institutions, even Mr. Tudjman's critics hope he survives.

"I really disagree with Tudjman as a president and as a person," said Mr. Kovacic. "But he is the guarantee that neither of these two undemocratic wings gets power."

## Monarchy: The stabilising force in our society

By Dr. Radwan Radi Abdallah

The writer, who is head of the Political Science Department of Jordan University, attempts to identify the factors that made for the uniqueness of the Jordanian experience under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein over the past forty years, as well as the uniqueness of the King's contribution to it.

Jordan stands out as an oasis of stability in a volatile region. This stability, under which our society thrived and prospered, is not a minor achievement, considering the difficult circumstances the country faced. The far more remarkable achievement is the almost total absence of coercion or repression in bringing it about. The stability of Jordan was never the precarious stability that is based on fear and terror, so much in vogue in the contemporary world. This is the one feature of His Majesty the King's rule that all Jordanians treasure and most foreign observers admire.

Conflict arising out of scarcity and incompatible values is a feature of all human societies, including those that are highly organised. Those civil societies that are blessed with a high degree of stability have become so not because conflicting interests were absent or because they were successfully suppressed but because they were successfully accommodated.

The widespread political upheavals we are now witnessing in many parts of the world are largely due to the absence of viable political mechanisms for channelling peaceful change within these societies, resulting in an over reliance on coercive measures to suppress recalcitrant groups who press for change. Attempts by governments to produce stability by resorting to repression are akin to the capping of a volcano in an attempt to make it dormant: it does not tackle the underlying active forces and only serves to make the inevitable explosion far more powerful.

A political system is truly stable only when groups within society have no interest in, or reason to challenge, the established order, and not when the government is efficient in suppressing such challenges. Opposition will not arise when the established order succeeds in devising formal or informal processes for obtaining satisfaction of potentially disaffected or discontented groups.

King Hussein should take the major credit for devising a variety of highly effective informal processes in which the Monarchy became the focal point and which enabled the political system to channel conflict into peaceful

accommodation through constant adjustment, balance, compensation, conciliation and a variety of other subtle techniques. The difference between the successful Jordanian model and the wide variety of far less stable models in our region as well as others does not lie in our government's superior ability to impose its will against individuals or segments of society. In fact in this aspect the opposite is true. The superiority of our political system lies in the adequacy of our political process to work out compromises and

**"It is to the credit of the King that he persistently resisted all pressures to make the Monarchy take a more direct part in the running of the government. It reflects deep awareness and understanding of the imperatives of effective government, the requirements of political equilibrium and concern over the need to provide a favourable political setting for the continued healthy development of the country's political institutions, including the Monarchy itself."**

promote accommodation of interests among the diverse and overlapping groups within society.

Conflict resulting from either a misguided policy, corruption or abuse of authority on the part of government or from the existence of a segment of society with unreasonable demands always carries with it a risk of splitting the polity into two camps. Such a split reinforces the initial conflict and becomes the main cause of further instability. The system could become self-aggravating and conflict positions could become reinforcing. The Jordanian

monarchy has evolved, particularly under the guiding hand of King Hussein, into a functionally separate political institution that is not synonymous with government. This development provides a structural safeguard against the above-mentioned likelihood of a two-camp split where the line of cleavage would be wide and deep. The existence of the Monarchy as a separate political entity made such a split much less likely to occur and provided the Monarchy with the ability to perform a balancing function if and when the situation warranted.

It is ironic that our political system is producing substantial pressures on the Monarchy to play a more direct role in the running of government. Such pressures emanated from disaffected groups who thought that the great leeway enjoyed by the executive led to the rise of corruption, incompetence, and abuse. It also emanated from consecutive governments who sought closer identification with the Monarchy in order to give greater legitimacy to their actions and policies and to strengthen their hand vis-a-vis opposing or competing groups.

It is to the credit of the King that he persistently resisted all pressures to make the Monarchy take a more direct part in the running of the government. It reflects deep awareness and understanding of the imperatives of effective government, the requirements of political equilibrium and concern over the need to provide a favourable political setting for the continued healthy development of the country's political institutions, including the Monarchy itself. It also reflects a much wider political perspective. Such a direct role would virtually destroy the Monarchy's most effective political role as holder of the political balance, it would reduce it to a mere partner to government in one scale of the balance that could as a result become dangerously unbalanced.

Even prior to the introduction of democracy, the Jordanian political process was based on accommodation, compromise and consensus-building. Opposition groups were, to a great extent, co-opted within the political mainstream rather than coerced and excluded. This explains why the transition to a more democratic form was so smooth.

As our society proceeds to construct a more pluralistic political system, it is prudent to keep in mind that such changes will be most effective if they are designed to preserve and reinforce the indispensable role of the Monarchy as the main stabilising force in our society.



## Palestinians on 'listening mode'

(Continued from page 1)

Israelis have also accepted a Palestinian request that house demolition orders already issued be cancelled and immediate steps will be taken to issue reunification papers to around 5,000 family members living in the occupied territories without permits. But as Palestinian negotiators point out, these moves deal with halting the regression of the situation in the occupied territories but as of yet do not cover the ground ahead on improved human rights and living conditions.

But the more tantalising and perhaps the most dangerous lure is an Israeli proposal to allow Palestinians "early empowerment" over certain aspects of life in the occupied territories even before Palestinian Interim Self Government Arrangement (PISGA) is agreed upon and under way. For the moment the Israeli side is proposing that Palestinians prepare themselves for immediate takeover of the civil police authority, health, education and tourism in the West Bank and Gaza, including budget allocations from the Israeli government and freedom to channel aid from Arab and other countries. The list does not end at that and pending agreements on these categories, the Israelis say, more could be coming.

The fear among Palestinian negotiators is that it would set a precedent whereby a settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would become compartmentalised and superficial. Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, in a press briefing over the weekend, insisted that the Palestinians will not accept such proposals unless it was established that these steps are taken within "a comprehensive political framework."

The fact that the Israelis are quick to lace their early empowerment proposal with a clear message that administering these sectors does not in any way mean that the issue of jurisdiction over land will be tackled, makes it difficult to swallow the publicised good intentions behind it. "Early empowerment cannot exclude East Jerusalem," Palestinian negotiators say but the Israelis maintain that "East Jerusalem is out of the preliminary negotiations and therefore cannot be included in this package."

Faisal Hussein, the overall head of the Palestinian team, told reporters this weekend that the issue of East Jerusalem and settlement cannot be ignored by the

Israelis and that there is a change of attitude towards these two elements by the Israelis who realise, he says, that "every time a door is opened in negotiations one finds that it almost always has another door behind it leading to the issue of East Jerusalem or the settlements."

This reported change in Israeli attitude became apparent in negotiations over elections in the occupied territories. According to Mr. Hussein, "the participation of East Jerusalemites is no longer a big problem" in negotiations over elections. The standoff, according to Mr. Hussein, remains over the form in which the participation will be taking place but not over it happening as a concept.

## King pledges

(Continued from page 1)

presented the King with a copy of the Holy Koran in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of his constitutional powers.

King Hussein thanked the speakers of parliament and voiced his pride in the democratic march in the Kingdom and called for further deepening of the process of democracy and enabling it to contribute further towards Jordan's prosperity and progress and enhancing the meaning of freedom, democracy and rights.

Mr. Lawzi and Dr. Arabiyat voiced parliament's deep appreciation of the

King's efforts and achievements for the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation.

King Hussein met separately Monday at the Royal Court with the chairman and members of a higher committee that organised the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of his constitutional powers and thanked them for their efforts.

"I take pride to be one of you, working together diligently for the future, and I feel we are now at the threshold of a promising future," King Hussein said in an address at the meeting.

"Our success or failure does not reflect on us, but rather will extend across the whole Arab Nation," the King said.

He expressed hope that Jordan's success would serve as a new model for others towards safeguarding respect for human rights and dignity and enabling people to shoulder responsibilities and forge ahead along the path of progress.

"I have been honoured by all people of my country and I feel that I have not yet offered enough for the country which faces great challenges and I am deeply grateful to you all and wish you continued success," he said.

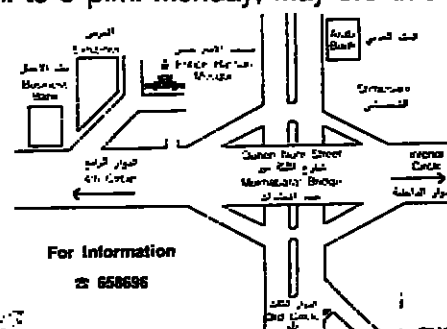
Prime Minister Sharif Zeid, the chairman of the committee, said at the audience that the committee's efforts reflected the deep love they have for the King who has offered so many sacrifices over the past four decades.

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## Lakers stun Suns again

PHOENIX (R) — The surprising Los Angeles Lakers proved their game one upset was no fluke Sunday as they stunned the Phoenix Suns again to take a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-five first-round National Basketball Association playoff series.

Vlade Divac scored four of his 19 points in the final 12:23 as the Lakers held off the Suns for a shocking 86-81 victory.

The Lakers, the team with the worst record in the playoffs, can finish off the league's best club with a victory at home Tuesday night in what would be one of the biggest upsets in NBA playoff history.

Strong defense by Los Angeles and poor shooting by Phoenix made the difference down the stretch as the Lakers held the Suns without a field goal for the final 6:55 to erase a 78-72 deficit.

"I think we played best defense we played all season," said Divac, who grabbed 13 rebounds. "If somebody asked if I thought we could beat Phoenix twice I would have said 'no way.'"

In New York, John Starks scored 12 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter to rally the Knicks to a 101-91 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

New York holds a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five Eastern Conference series with the Pacers facing elimination at home Tuesday.

The Knicks, who led the league in fewest points allowed per game, held the Pacers to 36 second-half points.

The Chicago Bulls remained on track in their quest to win a third consecutive NBA title with another convincing win at home against the Atlanta Hawks.

Michael Jordan scored 29 points and Scottie Pippen added 25 as Chicago cruised to a 117-102 win that gave them a 2-0 lead in their best-of-five first-round playoff series.

Chicago has not lost a first-round game since 1990.

Dominique Wilkins scored 37 points and Kevin Willis added 26 for the Hawks, who will host game three Tuesday.

Boston's Lewis to miss playoffs with heart problem

The Boston Celtics will be without leading scorer Reggie Lewis for the remainder of the playoffs due to cardiac abnormalities, spokesman at New England Baptist Hospital said Sunday night.

Lewis passed out during Boston's 112-101 victory over the Charlotte Hornets Thursday night in the opener of their first-round playoff series and he missed the Celtics' loss in game two Saturday.

Lewis has been hospitalized since Thursday, undergoing a battery of tests.

"In-lab cardiac evaluation of Reggie Lewis has now been completed," a hospital statement said. "Cardiac abnormalities have been identified that are likely to have contributed to his loss of consciousness during Thursday night's game."

The 27-year-old Lewis became Boston's captain when Larry Bird retired before the season. He averaged 20.8 points per game.

## Man. United win title

LONDON (AP) — Twenty-six years of heartache and frustration ended for Manchester United Sunday as England's most famous and popular soccer club at last recaptured the elusive League title.

Although United had triumphed in the European Champions and Cupwinners Cups, won the Football Association Cup four times and domestic League Cup once, the League title had stayed away from Old Trafford since Sir Matt Busby's team won it in 1967.

Five managers who succeeded Busby tried and failed to win the League title despite spending millions to hire the best players available.

Eventually another Scot, Alex Ferguson, did it in his sixth season in charge.

United fans believe it was a triumph that was long overdue. During those 26 years, United had finished runner up four times and placed third three times.

The Old Trafford faithful saw near neighbour Liverpool establish itself as England's most powerful team with 11 titles during that same period.

Now the United followers hope the pendulum has swung in their direction again.

Ferguson's team finished runner up to Leeds last season after leading for much of the campaign. This time it was involved

in a close battle with Aston Villa and Norwich.

United clinched the title with two games in hand when second place Aston Villa lost 1-0 at home to relegation-threatened Oldham Sunday. It meant Villa had only one more game to play and was four points behind.

United followers all over the world cheered the result.

Maybe it was the tragedy of the Munich air crash that killed eight first team players in 1958. Maybe it was the courage of Busby who survived it and went on to rebuild the team. Maybe it was skills of Fergie Best, Bobby Charlton and Denis Law and the players who won the Champions Cup in 1968.

But Manchester United became famous world wide and seemed to have supporters from Berlin to Barcelona, Sacramento to Sofia.

United has been served by some of the top players in Britain, such as former England captain Bryan Robson, Steve Coppell, who now is manager of Crystal Palace, former AC Milan midfielder Ray Wilkins and Gordon Strachman, who now plays for last season's titlist Leeds.

Dutch winger Jesper Olsen also joined United in the early 80s and countryman Arnold Muhren was on the team that won the FA Cup in 1983.

The current lineup contains a Dane, a Frenchman and a Ukrainian.

Peter Schmeichel is rated one of the world's best goalies and was on Denmark's team that won the European Championship last year.

Andrei Kanchelskis was hired from Shakhtyor Donetsk two seasons ago and has made his name as a fast-raiding winger.

Frenchman Eric Cantona also made a stunning impact since his surprise move from Leeds mid-season.

Cantona has scored some memorable goals among his nine in 19 games and law appreciates the value of having such a quality player on the team.

"Manchester United could have been made for his talents," the Scot said. "The fans love the back-heels, the flicks and feints, I honestly believe his magic has rubbed off on other players."

While Cantona could be likened to law in terms of producing the unexpected in front of goal, United also appears to have found another George Best.

Ryan Giggs is a 19-year-old Welsh winger who likes to beat two or three defenders and home in for goal.

His performances have earned him call ups for Wales and he scored on his full debut in a 1-0 victory Belgium in a World Cup game.

## Seles arrives in U.S. for treatment

DENVER, Colorado (Agencies) — Monica Seles, recovering from Friday's knife attack at a tennis tournament in Germany, arrived in Denver late Sunday and was expected to receive treatment at the nearby ski resort of Vail.

Seles, the number one woman tennis player, arrived in a private jet from Hamburg under heavy security.

Looking tired and wearing a blanket over what seemed to be pyjamas, Seles walked unassisted off the jet. She was accompanied by an unidentified man and woman and did not speak to reporters.

She was expected to be treated at the Steadman Hawkins Clinic in Vail, a town known as much for its celebrity visitors as for its ski slopes.

### Seles leaves hospital

"I want to thank all the people who have helped me over these last few difficult days," Seles said in a statement.

"The greetings and best wishes I received from so many people are a great support to me and I want every one to know how much it means to me and how much it has helped."

Seles received only a minor wound when an attacker from the former East Germany, Gunter Parche, 38, slipped past security guards with a hidden knife and stabbed the player during a second set changeover in her quarter final against Magdalena Maleeva.

The man, who has since been charged with attempted murder, claimed he had attacked Seles because he wanted to help Steffi Graf recapture the world number one spot.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, who beat Graf in straight sets in Sunday's final of the event, visited

Seles in the morning. Seles was sleeping at the time but her brother Zoltan assured Sanchez that she was feeling much better.

When Graf visited Saturday, she reported that Seles was severely depressed by the incident.

The world number one is not expected to play for at least a month and is unlikely to defend her title at the French Open, which begins May 24.

Seles had been out since the end of February with a viral infection and another break could further undermine her match fitness and cost her the world number one spot.

The stabbing cast a huge shadow over the tournament and is likely to lead to a security shake-up at tournaments around the world.

Wimbledon and French Open officials have already announced security reviews but Graf issue a plea Sunday that safety measures should not be allowed to suffocate future tournaments.

Graf demonstrated her determination to carry on as normal by refusing to accept a guard sitting on court behind her chair during Sunday's final.

In order not to penalise Seles unfairly for the incident, the Women's Tennis Association decided to award Seles the same number of points for the tournament as she won in the corresponding week last year, when she lost in the final of the Italian Open.

The exceptional decision means her tour computer ranking, which is based on average points over the last year, is unchanged.

Graf fails to set new record: Steffi Graf failed to become the first player to win a tournament seven consecutive times when she



Steffi Graf

was beaten in straight sets by Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in Sunday's final of the Hamburg Open.

Graf, the No. 2 seed and defending champion, carried over her indifferent form from the semi-finals and rarely offered the 3rd seeded Spaniard a real challenge.

She held serve just once in the first set, in the seventh game, but even then had to hold off two break points.

Graf was very disappointed to finish the week so poorly and admitted that her game just wasn't there when she needed it. "I didn't feel very confident with my forehand and all together I didn't know how to win a point. I had trouble putting the ball in play," she confessed.

"But she played well, she rarely made mistakes and concentrated well. She played very few bad games."



Teamwork, talent buoy Swiss toward World Cup: Switzerland's first World Cup berth since 1966 has moved within easy reach thanks to a crop of exceptional talent paired with veteran players in a strong-willed team. Long overshadowed by Switzerland's slayers, the soccer team took a two-point lead in its World Cup qualifying group by beating Italy in a major competition for the first time in 39 years. The 1-0 win, secured in the second half after the referee sent off Italian midfielder Dino Baggio for a first-time tackle, virtually clinched Switzerland's berth in next year's 24-nation World Cup finals in the United States. In above photo by AFP the Swiss soccer team jubilates after scoring the winning goal.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lendl wins 93rd career title

MUNICH (AP) — Ivan Lendl saved his best match for last as he beat Germany's Michael Stich 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 Sunday to win the \$300,000 BMW Open and earn his 93rd career title. In a match delayed by rain for two hours, Lendl took command when the German's serve failed him at a key moment in the first set. For the 33-year-old Lendl, who had struggled through the early rounds, it was his first title on clay since winning in Bordeaux in 1989. Lendl, ranked eighth, trailed unseeded Cedric Pioline 6-1, 6-7 (7-1), 1-0 in his semifinal match Saturday when the Frenchman was forced to withdraw because of a thigh injury.

### Vert Amande proves surprise of Prix Ganay

PARIS (R) — Vert Amande, trained by Elie Lellouche, won a battle against British-trained five-year-old Opera House to take the Prix Ganay — the first French group one race of the season — at Longchamp Sunday. Arlington Million hero Dear Doctor started a hot favourite to win the extended 10-furlong event, but, after looking to be going ominously well under Texan Cash Asmussen, he weakened to finish fourth. Dear Doctor's collapse opened the way up for a struggle between Vert Amande, having his first race of the season, and Opera House. Vert Amande, racing in the colours of Spanish owner Enrique Sarasola and ridden by Dominique Boeuf, eventually gained the upper hand on a heavy track to pip the Michael Roberts-ridden Opera House by a short neck.

### Zambian national soccer team players buried

LUSAKA (AP) — President Frederick Chiluba wept as he joined more than 100,000 mourners for the funeral 18 members of the national soccer team and 12 others killed in an air crash last week. Field artillery fired a 21-gun salute as the caskets, draped in Zambia's national colours of green, red and gold and crowned with floral wreaths, were lowered into the ground just outside Lusaka's Independence Football Stadium. "Today we inter our heroes. But we don't bury their spirits, their dreams and their aspirations," said a weeping Chiluba. "These heroes made the supreme sacrifice in the national cause." The players were flying from Mauritius in the Indian Ocean to Senegal last Wednesday when their Zambia Air Force Buffalo ct15 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Gabon.

### Lewis fifth in 400 metres debut

HOUSTON (R) — Eight-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis ran the 400 metres in competition for the first time in his illustrious career at the Houston invitational athletics meeting Sunday and came away encouraged, despite a fifth-place finish. Mike Marsh, the 200 metres Olympic champion, ran the 400 for the first time since 1989 and won the event with a time of 45.53 seconds. Wayne Payne finished second in 46.39 and Gabriel Luke was third in 46.51. Lewis, who has won Olympic gold at 100 and 200 metres and holds the 100 metre world record, said he just might try the longer distance again. "I haven't run it before, but if I get the chance to run it again, I'll have more confidence to go out faster. I didn't die or anything at the end."



Kevin Schwantz, No. 34, and Wayne Rainey No. 1, both from the U.S., negotiate a tight curve during the Spanish Motorcycle Gp. Schwantz clinched the title while Rainey finished second (AFP photo)

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH  
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQ1075 ♣865 ♠9 ♣KQ63  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump and your right-hand opponent passes. What do you respond?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Q762 ♣A3 ♠A ♣876432  
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Void ♣8 ♠AKJ983 ♣Q9843  
Your right-hand opponent passes. What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q1063 ♣K5 ♠AJ1065 ♣K6  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQ2 ♣K ♠KQ1093 ♣8762  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
? What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠K106 ♣Q4 ♠QJ6 ♣AQ1054  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass ? What do you bid now?

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 4, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you will find it difficult to arrange the practical side of your existence and the afternoon, though better aspects finds you restless with all kinds of ideas, some sound, some visionary, that require considerable analysis.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Handle activities that have not been completed rather than getting involved in new interests but the evening can be utilised to study new ambition.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You need to consider what you personally desire from life and do something of a practical nature that can in any way endanger your security.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't allow a negative associate to distract you from your career duties during the daytime but spend time with that person in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't get bowled over by some change in work interests but spend time instead looking into new ways and means for being more successful.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Stick to business interests that require your personal attention during the daytime and avoid the temptation to go off on some pleasure jaunt.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Home can be a tense place to

be early in the day so get out early and meet with partners and associates for your mutual advancement and progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Keep improving your work surroundings and make sure you do not go off with a purposeless individual so that your duties suffer in the eyes of others.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put aside those practical matters for the moment and think out what you can best do to be more productive with your special capabilities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You need to forget yourself today and your own personal projects and spend your time as much as possible doing those things your family desire.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A private anxiety if allowed to preoccupy your time can keep you from the many things you can do in the outside world so get out and achieve.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't yield to that impulse to be very social and gregarious today but think in terms of building up more abundance so you can do things you wish.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you wish to do that requires making changes in business of vocational matters is not good for you can now go after what you want personally.

## THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"I'm allowed to eat chicken. Since eggs are just very young chickens, then eggs are okay...right?"

## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Heri Arnold

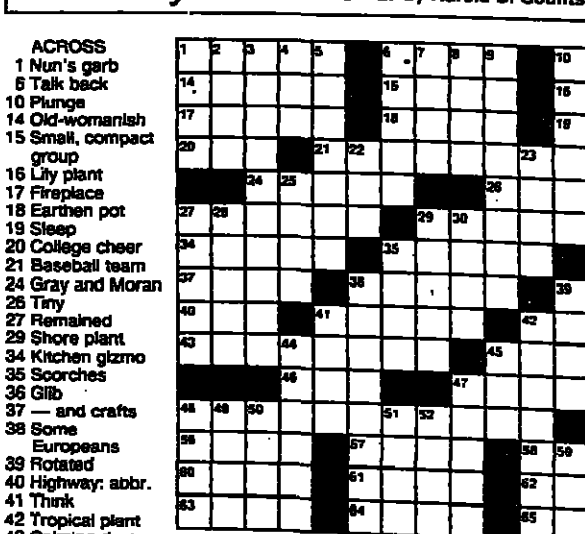
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: MOSSY GROUP MORGUE EITHER  
Answer: What boarding house gossip used to start with—"ROOMERS"

## THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts



ACROSS  
1 Nun's garb  
6 Talk back  
10 Plunge  
14 Old-womanish  
15 Small, compact group  
16 Lay plant  
17 Fireplace  
18 Earthen pot  
19 Sleep  
20 College cheer  
21 Baseball team  
24 Kitchen garnish  
27 Remained  
29 Shore plant  
34 Kitchen garnish  
35 Scorchies  
36 Glib  
37 — and crafts  
38 Some Europeans  
39 Rotated  
40 Highway, abbr.  
41 Think  
42 Tropical plant  
43 Calming drug  
45 Coercion  
46 Zlich  
47 Carolina rails  
48 Urbanite, disparagingly  
53 Suffer  
56 Lined up  
57 Nautical word  
58 Hardened; var.  
60 — avia  
61 Storm  
62 Arrow notches  
63 Repudiate  
64 Whirlpool  
65 Braid  
9 Lucas movie  
11 To shelter  
12 Puzzled  
13 Ailous  
22 Remnant  
23 Barrels  
25 Some breeds  
27 War memorials  
28 Rich cake  
29 Alan Ladd movie  
30 Roof overhang  
31 Nonsense  
32 Anta, Klee and Muni  
33 Lab burners  
35 154  
36 Escaped liquid  
39 Poet Teasdale  
41 Elevator inventor  
42 Up-to-date  
44 Haphazardly  
45 John —  
47 Lofty  
48 Deuce or tray  
49 Dies —  
50 Ripped  
51 "It — a Hammer"  
52 Weather forecast  
54 Annoys  
55 Not as much  
59 Neither's partner

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff





# Africa needs \$950b aid in 90s

ADDIS ABABA (R) — A top African economist has said the world's poorest continent, hit by civil wars, drought and debt, needs \$950 billion aid in the 1990s to emerge from its cycle of economic ills.

Layashi Yaker, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), told a meeting of economic experts in Addis Ababa that Africa must start by mobilising its abundant resources.

"They (African states) must increase their own effort to mobilise domestic resources and boost the efficiency and productive capacity of their utilisations," Mr. Yaker said.

"It also requires political commitment and sacrifices by the African countries if their dismal economic performances will have to be improved," he added.

Mr. Yaker said Africa needed up to \$950 billion in external development funding from 1993 to 2005. With that money the U.N. had targeted its annual growth at six per cent.

"The task of mobilising these resources is a shared responsibility between Africa's peoples and governments on one hand and its development partners on the other," he said.

Political conflicts and civil wars had inflicted "incalculable damage on the existing fragile infrastructure while economic activities virtually came to a stop in many of its conflict-ridden countries," Mr. Yaker added.

Western aid officials say living standards have fallen consistently and the continent's massive debt burden has grown despite \$105 billion of net development assistance in the 1980s.

Debt has doubled to \$280 billion since 1982, although African countries paid more than \$200 billion in debt service between 1983 and 1991 — more than the whole debt burden in 1982.

The ECA economist called on African countries "to focus with renewed vigour" on strategies which would help launch sustainable development.

British-based charity Oxfam has recently appealed to the industrialised world for a new " Marshall plan" to halt the economic decline of sub-Saharan Africa.

The charity urged governments to write off African debt and accused the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of "sucking Africa dry" by draining it of over \$3 billion in debt payments since 1983.

"Africa stands in desperate need today of the same sense of support and the same sense of moral purpose that was there in the Marshall plan," Oxfam Director David Bryer told a news conference to launch a campaign titled "Africa — make or break."

The United States created the Marshall plan to help rebuild a shattered Europe after World War II.

The charity is trying to raise public support to help lobby governments, the World Bank and the IMF to relieve Africa of its crushing \$10 billion annual debt burden.

It wants more aid for African countries that are moving towards democracy, improvements for the continent's trade prospects and a bigger U.N. role in conflicts and emergencies.

Oxfam wants African debt cut by two thirds as a first step towards total debt write-off for the poorest countries.

Britain proposed in 1990 that

Western governments write off two thirds of the debt of the world's poorest countries, but the plan has not been widely implemented.

Oxfam said that the IMF should be reformed or a new agency created to help channel funds to Africa.

"Unless there are fundamental reforms of the terms and conditions attached to IMF loans, the fund should be withdrawn from Africa and its role taken over by a more appropriate agency," the charity said.

Economic policies recommended by the IMF and World Bank should put less emphasis on increasing production of commodities for already saturated and depressed markets, it said.

Protectionist barriers against Africa's exports should be reduced and the subsidised disposal of farm surpluses on world and regional markets should cease.

## Bahrain offshore banking assets soar

MANAMA (R) — Total assets of offshore banking units (OBUs) operating in Bahrain soared 30.7 per cent during 1992, recovering most of the ground lost by the Gulf war.

Figures by the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) showed OBUs assets rose to \$69.77 billion at the end of 1992 from \$53.38 billion at the end of 1991. The assets dropped to \$51.75 billion at the end of January 1992 but have risen steadily since, signalling a return of international confidence in Gulf Arab economies.

A BMA quarterly bulletin showed there were 43 OBUs operating on the island, the Gulf's main financial centre, at the end of the December 1992 compared with 44 OBUs three months earlier.

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## Sudan fails to get oil from Libya

By Jane Arraf  
Reuters

AMMAN (R) — Sudan will continue to buy oil on the spot market after failing to reach an agreement with neighbouring Libya, a Sudanese official said Sunday.

"The Libyans are unpredictable," Mohammed Ali Amin Al Basseir, deputy head of the Sudanese parliament, told Reuters. "I do not believe they have agreed."

It was the first public acknowledgement by Sudan that talks with Libya last month failed to produce agreement on oil supplies. Lack of hard currency to pay for imports has caused an acute fuel shortage in Sudan.

Libya, which has been Sudan's main oil supplier, is believed to be reluctant to sell more oil to Sudan, which is behind in payments. Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi travelled to Tripoli in mid-April where he was expected to ask officials to provide fuel for Sudan urgently.

Mr. Basseir, who briefed Jordanian parliamentarians on the Sudanese economy after arriving from a trip to Iraq this week, referred to the apparently failed Tripoli talks.

"We will buy our own with our own money. We don't need anybody... no one can say Sudan owes them anything," said Mr. Basseir of the country which has appeared increasingly isolated economically and politically.

He said Sudan was not getting oil from Iran or any other country and would continue to buy oil on the spot market.

## Arab economies headed for upturn, report says

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab economies are headed for an upturn as the oil-rich Gulf states recover from the war over Kuwait and other members of the Arab League press ahead with reforms, an official report said.

The report, released by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), classified League members into two groups. The first group included Libya, Algeria, Iraq and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the second comprised the remaining members of the 21-nation Arab League.

It said the first group, especially the GCC, had started to spend more on development after meeting their financial commitments to the Gulf war while the second group introduced more reforms and was expected to cut its debt.

"It is expected that economic growth rates will improve in the first group from 1992 and in the second group from 1993," said the Arab League's 1992 report about economic and social developments in the region.

"Inflation rates are also expected to decline in the first group while the decline in the second group needs more attention to financial rationalisation," the report pointed out.

After a recovery of four years, Arab economies deteriorated again in 1990 due to the Gulf war that cost around \$676 billion. In real terms, the gross domestic product (GDP) dropped by 1.3 per cent in 1990 and seven per cent in 1991 compared with an average growth of three per cent since 1986.

The 1986-1989 recovery followed a sharp recession in the region because of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and a fall in oil prices. This pushed down the

Arab GDP by an average 5.5 per cent during 1980-85 compared with a growth of 9.6 per cent during the oil boom between 1975 and 1980, according to the report.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — and the other members of the first group suffered most from the Gulf war, with their GDP in current prices falling by 13 per cent in 1991 to \$307 billion.

Iraq and Kuwait alone lost \$97 billion in GDP as the war crippled their economies after the damage of their key facilities.

"The second group was less affected by the Gulf war as its real GDP declined by 2.5 per cent in 1991," the report said. "But such a decline was difficult for its members given their low income."

The report estimated total

Arab GDP at \$420 billion in 1991 compared with \$430.6 billion in 1980, when Arab oil earnings exceeded \$200 billion against nearly \$90 billion in 1991.

"The Gulf war has also pushed up inflation rates in the Arab World to their levels during 1970s," the report said but gave no figures.

A breakdown showed the industrial sector was hit most by the Gulf war, with output declining to \$87.8 billion in 1991 from \$103 billion in 1990. In the first group it fell to \$84 billion from \$99 billion dollars.

The report said most of the loss occurred in Iraq and Kuwait, where Gulf war damage in the infrastructure and economy is estimated at \$232 billion and \$240 billion respectively. Another loss was GCC payments to the Gulf war, which the report estimated at \$56 billion dollars.

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cordially invite you to the  
"Contemporary Japanese Posters Exhibition"

to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre  
in Amman  
from May 5th through May 11th 1993

★ ADMISSION FREE ★

### ANNOUNCEMENT

To members and friends of the  
Jordanian Scandinavian Friendship Association.

You are cordially invited to attend the JSFA Annual Dinner — Dance under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Raad Bin Zeid & Princess Majda Raad on May 6th, 1993 at the Philadelphia Hotel at 20:00 HRS.

Ticket per person is at JD 16. Tickets are available with Mr. N. Azar (Tel.: 648503), Mr. F. Schultz (Tel.: 741914), Mr. A. Elnoun (Tel.: 669177), Ms. L. Rashedat (Tel.: 821972) and Danish Consulate (Tel.: 603703). Valuable prizes awaiting you...

For further information, please contact the  
Secretariat at 603703 - Ext. 7404/7411.

### VACANCY

The American Embassy in Amman has a vacancy for a Visa Clerk to work in the Consular Section. Applicants must be high school graduates (college education desirable) and must have good command of Arabic and English. Must be able to operate word processing and other office equipment and must have at least two years of experience in office clerical work, preferably involving contact with the public.

Qualified applicants should submit an application form (available at the Embassy gate) to the Personnel Officer prior to May 11, 1993.

### Financial Markets

in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

#### U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 3/4/93	HongKong Close Date: 3/5/93
Sterling Pound*	1.5735	1.5725
Deutsche Mark	1.5850	1.5865
Swiss Franc	1.4310	1.4335
French Franc	5.3450	5.3490**
Japanese Yen	141.75	140.85
European Currency Unit	1.2350	1.2327**

\* USD Per ECU  
\*\* European Opening @ 8:00 A.M. GMT

#### Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.12	3.12	3.37
Sterling Pound	6.00	5.93	6.06	6.18
Deutsche Mark	7.75	7.62	7.31	6.75
Swiss Franc	5.06	4.93	4.62	4.43
French Franc	7.93	7.75	7.37	7.37
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.18	3.25	3.28
European Currency Unit	8.50	8.38	8.18	7.75

Interest bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

#### Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.85	6.75	Silver	4.46	.095

\* 21 Karat

#### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6830	0.6850
Sterling Pound	1.0715	1.0769
Deutsche Mark	0.4301	0.4323
Swiss Franc	0.4768	0.4792
French Franc	0.1276	0.1282
Japanese Yen*	0.6162	0.6193
Dutch Guilder	0.3828	0.3847
Swedish Krona	0.0934	0.0939
Italian Lira*	0.0461	0.0463
Belgian Franc	0.02092	0.02106

\* Per 100

#### Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7920	1.8250
Lebanese Lira*	0.03847	0.04034
Saudi Riyal	0.18180	0.18325
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2240	2.2740
Qatari Riyal	0.1844	0.1865
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7410	1.7800
UAE Dirham	0.1844	0.1865
Greek Drachma*	0.3162	0.3462
Cypriot Pound	1.4340	1.4540

\* Per 100

#### CAN Indices for Amman Financial Market\*

Index	21/4/1993 Close	28/4/1993 Close
All-Share	198.52	198.73
Banking Sector	139.19	137.41
Insurance Sector	213.42	212.59
Industry Sector	281.74	284.35
Services Sector	256.66	262.47

\* December 31, 1990 = 100

## TODAY AT

Cinema  
**PHILADELPHIA** Tel.: 634144  
**The Man Who Loved Women**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema  
**CONCORD** Tel.: 677420  
**FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA FILM**  
**DRACULA**  
**LOVE NEVER DIES**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Cinema  
**PLAZA** Tel.: 699238  
Steven Seagal in —  
**MARKED FOR DEATH**  
Shows: 12:30, 30:15, 4:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Tel.: 675571  
**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre**  
Today the Nabil Mashini Theatre hosts  
**Al Fawaris Troupe acting**  
in a play entitled:  
**Death of Taybeh**  
By: Suheir Fahd, Mohammad Al Qabbani, Amer Al Khafash

Nabil & Hisham's  
**AHLAN THEATRE**  
presents  
**Welcome Parliament and Budget**  
On Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
at 9:00 p.m.  
**Welcome New World Order**  
On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9:00 p.m.  
Please make advance reservation



## Khmer Rouge attack Siem Reap, briefly capture airport

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked the town of Siem Reap Monday and briefly captured its airport in what United Nations officials called the most serious challenge so far to peacekeeping forces in Cambodia.

Dozens of tourists took shelter with U.N. peacekeepers as a force of at least 200 guerrillas pounded the town with rockets, mortars and automatic rifles, U.N. officials said.

No U.N. personnel or tourists were injured in the early-morning attack, which was aimed at a garrison of the Phnom Penh army between Siem Reap Airport and the Angkor temple sites, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

A U.N. military officer to Siem Reap said four attackers had been confirmed killed and one wounded. Some civilian casualties were also reported, he said.

Radio Phnom Penh, the voice of the government, said three civilians and one government soldier were killed.

A Reuters correspondent saw two bodies in Khmer Rouge uniforms on the side of a road near the garrison. One had been shot in the head and one in the chest. "Are there any Vietnamese here?" the raiders had shouted at an old woman in the village of Vien, seven kilometres east of Siem Reap Airport.

"They took one look at my husband and said 'you look like Vietnamese,'" the woman told Reuters. She said they then shot him in the arm.

Tourists had taken refuge at the base of French Foreign Legion troops belonging to the peacekeeping force, which is in the Siem Reap town centre, the officer said.

Mr. Falt said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were responsible for the attack, but the officer in Siem Reap said it was too early to identify the attackers.

The officer said the assault was the most serious to confront the United Nations since the peacekeepers arrived in March 1992 to implement a U.N. peace plan and elections.

The Khmer Rouge has opted out of the peace process and threatened to use violence to disrupt the elections, scheduled for May 23-27.

The guerrillas entered Siem Reap at about 4.30 a.m. shooting sporadically in all directions with assault rifles and rocket grenades, the officer said.

They were pushed out of the city after more than two hours of heavy fighting with 200 to 300 troops of the Phnom Penh government garrison.

During the battle, hundreds of colour-trailing tracer bullets could be seen arcing into the sky, he said.

He said about 100 of the attackers entered the town centre. Some had infiltrated the town during the night and burned down at least two civilian houses.

At Vien, three houses were burned to the ground. Mr. Falt said earlier a Polish U.N. logistics camp north of the airport was reported destroyed by B-40 shoulder-fired rockets, but the officer in Siem Reap said this was not so.

"There was shooting towards the airport but there was absolutely no damage to the airport or the Polish logistics base," he said.

Airport building showed no signs of major damage Monday afternoon. Bangladeshi troops

stood guard on the rooftops of airport buildings.

Government troops brought at least one tank into the town centre in a show of force after fending off the attack, he said.

"Everything is pretty much back to normal. People are going about their business and the shops are trading," the officer said.

Mr. Falt said the guerrillas, who refuse to abide by the peace pact they signed in 1991, held Siem Reap Airport for a couple of hours before government troops recaptured it.

"The vicinity of the airport was shelled with B-40 rockets and mortars," Mr. Falt said.

Dozens of tourists and U.N. personnel had taken shelter at a Bangladeshi army base and the French base, he said. Both are attached to the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is staging elections in the country this month.

Siem Reap, home to the famed 12th century temple complex of Angkor that lures thousands of visitors each year, is 240 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh. A tank and two armoured personnel carriers stood guard at the temple complex.

Siem Reap is the major town of northern Cambodia and the centre of that region's communications network. The Khmer Rouge lacked the military strength for a sustained attack, Mr. Falt said.

Monday's attack appeared to be a raid against a government army base. "It was not directed against UNTAC," Mr. Falt said.

Siem Reap Airport has been attacked several times in the past six weeks but rockets fired at it

have always missed the runway. A Bangladeshi army unit is in charge of security there.

The 22,000-strong peacekeeping mission was deployed to Cambodia after the country's four main factions signed a U.N.-sponsored peace agreement in 1991.

Five Indian soldiers and a Dutch Marine were wounded in attacks elsewhere in Cambodia over the weekend.

The Khmer Rouge have agreed to send a representative to an emergency meeting of Cambodia's rival factions in Peking called this week by Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, well informed sources said here Monday.

The radical Marxist group will be represented at the meeting by a senior official but not by a leader of the faction, said the sources, who declined to be identified.

The sources, who are familiar with Cambodia developments, named the official as Chan Youran, the Khmer Rouge ambassador to Peking.

The meeting, which is to take place in the Chinese capital Wednesday and Thursday, will bring together representatives of all rival Cambodian factions — the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge, the government's bitter foe, and two small guerrilla groups allied to the Khmer Rouge during the Cambodian War.

Prince Sihanouk, who is currently in Peking, where he says he needs to undergo medical treatment, has told the factions that participants need not be members of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Group claims responsibility for south Africa killings

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A man claiming to represent the Azanian National Liberation Army told the South African Press Association Monday he coordinated Saturday's attack on an Eastern Cape hotel in which five whites were killed.

The man, who refused to give his name or to say where he was calling from, warned that there would be more attacks by AZANLA, the military wing of the Harare-based black consciousness movement of Azania.

He told the agency the attack at Highgate Hotel on the outskirts of East London was carried out by three guerrillas, while a fourth person waited in a getaway car.

The Azanian Peoples Organisation (AZAPO), the black consciousness movement's allies in South Africa, said the movement's leaders in neighbouring Zimbabwe would prefer not to comment about the attack at this stage.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze called on the black consciousness movement to "confirm or deny this claim as a matter of urgency."

Military analyst Jackie Cilliers said the claim of AZANLA responsibility should be treated with caution.

Police have offered a 150,000 rand (\$50,000) reward and named two blacks it was seeking following the killings.

50 Islamic fighters, 2 Tajik troops killed in fighting

MOSCOW (AFP) — More than 50 Islamic militants from Afghanistan have been killed in several days of skirmishes with Tajik security forces backed by Russian Border Guards, the ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

Two Tajik government troops were also killed in the fighting that has raged for more than 10 days in mountains in the south-east of Tajikistan, according to Russian Border Guard commanders cited by the agency.

It has pitted some 200 to 300 Islamic militants from Tajikistan and Afghan Mujahideen against troops from the Tajikistan Interior and Security ministries.

The Afghan Islamic fighters crossed the border around April 20 in the province of Shurohabad, Tajik forces said.



A military guard stands with bowed head as a Buddhist monk passes the coffin of slain Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Monday at Mr. Premadasa's family residence (AFP photo)

## Sri Lanka mourns Premadasa

COLOMBO (R) — Thousands of Sri Lankans filed past the coffin of slain President Ranasinghe Premadasa Monday as calm returned to the capital two days after the assassination by suspected separatist Tamil rebels.

Security forces patrolled the streets of Colombo while long lines of mourners paid their respects at Mr. Premadasa's coffin which, against tradition, was sealed. His bomb-shattered body could be identified only by his watch and ring.

Police said the final death toll from the suicide bomb attack Saturday's May Day rally was 24. "The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) are the prime suspects in the killing," a senior police officer told a news conference Sunday.

Suicide bomb attacks are the hallmarks of Tamil rebels who generally carry cyanide capsules to avoid being captured alive. Police said a splinter of a cyanide capsule was found embedded in the neck of the bomber, whose head was severed by the blast after he rode a bicycle into rally with explosives strapped to his body.

Police released a picture of the killer, believed to have been as

young as 14, and appealed for any information.

A military spokesman said Monday that operations against Tamil forces were continuing without interruption. But military sources said at least two battalions were being moved to the south from the north and east, where the Tamil Tigers are fighting for a separate homeland.

They said the soldiers were likely to return to the war zone if the situation remained calm after Mr. Premadasa's state funeral Thursday.

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party Monday called for snap presidential and parliamentary polls.

Under the constitution, a new president elected by parliament will serve the rest of Mr. Premadasa's term, which expires at the end of 1994.

The ruling United National Party has unanimously picked Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, who took over as acting president Saturday, as its presidential candidate.

Parliament will meet in special session Tuesday to set a date for nominations for president.

"The Sri Lanka Freedom-Par-

ty's Central Committee decided to call for urgent presidential and parliamentary elections," a party spokesman said, adding that the committee had decided not to contest the presidential poll in parliament.

Presidential polls are not due until the end of 1994 and parliamentary polls the following year.

The opposition Sri Lanka Muslim Congress wrote to Mr. Wijetunga Monday proposing the formation of a national government and changes to the constitution.

The opposition Democratic United National Front said Sunday it was ready to talk about forming a national government.

Meanwhile police visited newspaper offices and sifted through film of newspaper photographers who covered Mr. Premadasa's rally, looking for more clues as to the identity of the killer.

The LTTE, fighting for a separate state, has denied it killed Mr. Premadasa. It also rejected government accusations that it was responsible for the murder of Lalith Athulathmudali, leader of the Democratic United National Front who was shot dead by a gunman on April 23.

## N. Korean troops fire on South

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korean soldiers fired on a southern guardpost on the heavily-fortified inter-Korean border, a U.S. military spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman said two bullets were fired from a machine gun across the border in the central Korean section of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) Sunday evening.

He said South Korean guards did not return fire and no casualties were reported.

"Investigations are under way, but it appears the shooting was triggered accidentally," he added.

A South Korean Defence Ministry source said: "It seems not to be a provoked firing and we don't attach much significance to the incident."

Shooting incidents are occasionally reported along the DMZ, a four-kilometre wide strip of no man's land that has divided the two Koreas since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The most recent serious clash was in May last year when three North Korean soldiers were killed and two South Koreans were injured after the North Koreans crossed into the southern part of the DMZ.

Sunday's incident comes at a time of heightened tension between the two Koreas, caused by Pyongyang's announcement last March that it was withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) rather than allowing inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of two military

world's attention.

Kim Gi-Ryong, chairman of North Korea's State Information Committee, demanded that Washington accept this and stop practicing double standards if it wanted Pyongyang back in the NPT.

Mr. Kim's demand was made ahead of working-level talks reportedly taking place this week in Peking between North Korea and the United States aimed at discussing Pyongyang's March 12 decision to withdraw from the NPT and pave the way for future high-level talks.

"Tokyo has fantastic technology. If it wants to make an atomic bomb, it can do it very fast. The U.S. and rest of the world must accept this," Mr. Kim said, responding to a Japanese newspaper report that Pyongyang could have a nuclear missile ready by this year which would be capable of striking Japan.

Meanwhile Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen will visit South Korea this month to try to settle the crisis over North Korea's refusal to abide by the global nuclear treaty, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Foreign Minister Qian is expected to discuss extensively ways of resolving the nuclear standoff during his visit scheduled for late this month, a ministry spokesman said.

He said the dates of Mr. Qian's trip had yet to be fixed, but the domestic Yonhap News Agency said he would arrive in Seoul around May 25 for a four-day stay.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a visiting North Korean official charged Monday that Japan could be developing its own nuclear weapons and was using suspicions that Pyongyang already had such a programme to divert the

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strong population, half of which are ethnic Uzbeks, have been openly calling for revenge for what they say they suffered during the few months of Islamic power when pro-Communist supporters were victims of repression.

"For every one of them who was killed during the war, they want to kill whole families," says Amina Lakhimova, whose 15-year-old son has been beaten up several times by pro-Communist sympathisers.

So far only one family has been killed and one man has disappeared, but the hatred remains strong under the surface.

When the first refugee train arrived from Dushanbe, local residents blocked the railroad to stop the train.

## COLUMN

### Supermodel to marry U2 rock star

DUBLIN (R) — British supermodel Naomi Campbell said she is engaged to be married to Adam Clayton, a bass guitar player with Irish Rock Group U2. Ms. Campbell, 23, who became the first black model to appear on the cover of the British and French issues of Vogue fashion magazine, showed off her engagement ring on Irish Television. "Adam popped the question on the phone when I was in New York. He was very straightforward about it," she said. "There is a lot of trust between us and that is what I always wanted." The tall supermodel was introduced to her fiancé three months ago by Bono, U2's singer. Before that Ms. Campbell was often seen with American actor Robert De Niro. Ms. Campbell, who recently appeared in rock star Madonna's book Sex, will probably marry Clayton after U2's upcoming four-month tour, friends said.

### Husband tried to burn wife to death with alcohol

PEKING (R) — A Chinese brewer worked to burn his wife to death during a quarrel by pouring alcohol over her and setting it alight, the People's Daily said. To increase her agony, he then "applied rags soaked in pickle juice to her face," the newspaper said in a report on the arrest of the man, Jiang Guojun, 33. The woman's relatives finally took her to hospital, where she was treated for burns on 45 per cent of her body. The incident happened in Hailar, Inner Mongolia.

### Kennedys to sell Palm Beach estate

NEW YORK (R) — The Kennedy family is selling its Palm Beach estate, which was the focus of the William Kennedy Smith rape case two years ago. Newsweek magazine reported Sunday. The magazine quoted a source close to the family as saying the oceanfront property has an estimated value of 3.6 million, even though the house is in "rather dowdy" condition. A spokeswoman for Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, had no comment on the report. William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of the senator and of the late President John Kennedy, was acquitted last year of charges he raped a woman on the grounds of the compound in March 1991. The house, which has been in the family since the days of Kennedy patriarch Joseph Kennedy, was a favourite vacation spot of President Kennedy and was nicknamed the "winter white house."

### Robbers grab \$1m in gold, jewelry in New York

NEW YORK (R) — Robbers stole \$1 million worth of gold and jewelry from a business in New York's diamond district, one of the world's major diamond trading centres, police said. A spokesman said one or more suspects entered through a rear window of the offices of the Orlean Corp. on West 47th Street in Manhattan. They smashed open two safes and took an estimated \$1 million in gold and jewelry, he said. The robbery was discovered around 2 a.m. edt (0600 GMT) Sunday. The diamond district, one of the major diamond trading centres in the world.

### Children ask court to force father to visit them

LONDON (AP) — The children of a separated couple said they want a court order forcing their father to visit them. Aaron Wilson, 11, and his sister, Nicole, 10, are acting under the Childrens Act, which gives youngsters the right to take legal action against their parents. Their parents, Mark and Tracey, separated four years ago. Mark Wilson phones the children on their birthdays and at Christmas, but has not seen them for two years, they said. "We want our dad to come and see us," said Nicole, who lives with her mother, Aaron and 4-year-old sister Jade in Birmingham, 116 kilometres northwest of London. Mark Wilson lives in Ireland. "The kids are desperate to see Mark," Mrs. Wilson said. "They dream of going on holiday with him or playing in the park like other children." Lawyer Brendan Fleming, who is acting for the children, said he believes this is one of the first cases of its kind in Britain. Previous cases under the 1989 Childrens Act have involved teenagers applying to live away from their parents.

## Officials confirm Koresh died in Waco fire

WACO, Texas (R) — U.S. authorities have confirmed David Koresh died in the flames that consumed the compound of his cult last month, ending speculation the charismatic leader of the Branch Davidian sect may have escaped.

Mr. Koresh had a gunshot wound to the forehead, James Collier, justice of the peace for McLennan County where the compound stood, told a news conference in Waco Sunday.

But officials could not say if the wound was self-inflicted.

"The cause of death at this particular point is still pending," Justice of the Peace David Pareya said. "The preliminary finding would be a gunshot wound to the head."

The gunshot wound was located above the nose, Justice Pareya said.

"The skull itself was absolutely broken up into multiple fragments," he said.

Nizam Peerwani, a Fort Worth, Texas medical examiner, and his team, who have been trying to put names to the charred remains taken from the compound, identified Mr. Koresh from dental records and X-rays.

The 33-year-old Koresh — regarded by his followers as the messiah — sustained gunshot wounds in the side and wrist when federal agents raided the compound near Waco on Feb. 28, and these injuries also helped identify the body.

That raid by the Bureau of Alcohol and Firearms to arrest Mr. Koresh for weapons violations turned into a gun battle in which four agents and six cult members died.

A 51-day siege began. The standoff ended on April 19 when fire swept the compound, turning the buildings into ashes, after an assault by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in which tanks were used to spray tear gas into buildings.

Medical examiner Peerwani and his staff of pathologists have confirmed the identity of MCDOE18 (the number given to one of the corpses) as that of David Koresh, Justice Collier said.

Arson investigators say the cult members started the fire in several different locations. Some of the nine survivors of the fire say the FBI tanks knocked over kerosene lanterns.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Let me face trial' says Andreotti

ROME (R) — Former Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti said Monday he was in favour of his parliamentary immunity from prosecution being lifted, defusing an explosive issue which risked sinking the newly-formed government. Mr. Andreotti, who faces trial on mafia conspiracy charges, said in a statement he wanted his immunity lifted and that he was ready to face court proceedings. Four ministers quit Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi's government within hours of its formation last week after parliament blocked a corruption inquiry into former Socialist Premier Bettino Craxi. The Ciampi government risked collapse had parliament attempted to shield Mr. Andreotti. Mr. Andreotti said in a statement: "I do not wish my case to exacerbate an already very delicate situation. I am convinced the accusations against me are totally false — I hope only that the courts want to ascertain the truth."

### 80 hurt in Tokyo aircraft accident

TOKYO (AP) — Eighty people were hurt as they piled up at the bottom of emergency chutes while escaping a smoke-filled All Nippon Airways Jumbo Jet that had just landed here, police said Monday. The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department said seven of the injured were seriously hurt when they hit the concrete at the bottom of the chutes, made slippery by rain. All of the injured were Japanese citizens, police said. Isamu Eto, spokesman for All Nippon Airways, said the "direct cause of why so many passengers were injured is still under investigation." But Mr. Eto said the chutes were slippery because of rain and that darkness could have contributed to the panic, since the evacuation happened at night. Mr. Eto said the pilot of the Boeing 747-400 ordered evacuation of all 475 passengers after smoke suddenly filled the cabin of Flight 630, a domestic flight approaching its terminal at Tokyo's Haneda International Airport at 8:49 p.m. (11:49 GMT) Sunday. The remaining 15 crew members, including the pilot, were later evacuated safely, he said.

### Gunmen kill Armenian minister

MOSCOW (R) — Unidentified gunmen shot dead Armenia's railway minister in a central street in the capital Yerevan as he drove to work Monday and a security spokesman said a local criminal group might be behind the attack. The attackers fled after killing Ambartsun Kandilyan, 66, and another senior state transport official travelling with him. Mr. Kandilyan's driver was also wounded by the assassins, who used submachineguns, Russian ITAR-TASS News Agency said. Mr. Kandilyan had held his post for more than 20 years. A National Security Ministry spokesman said a local criminal group might be behind the killing of the outspoken minister, who controlled the lifeline of the mountainous Transcaucasian republic in his frontline position in charge of railways. The railways bring vital supplies of fuel, raw materials and industrial equipment to landlocked Armenia from Russia.

### French AIDS scandal retrial opens

PARIS (AFP) — The retrial of four former top French health officials for their role in an AIDS-tainted blood scandal dating back to 1985 opened here Monday and adjourned less than two hours later for the judges to consider a point of law raised by the defence. The case involves the infection of more than 1,000 hemophiliacs, 250 of whom have since died. Three of the four were convicted on fraud charges in the original trial seven months ago. Lawyers for the victims and their families are pushing this time for convictions on the more serious charge of poisoning. The key defendant, Michel Garretta, the physician who formerly headed the state-run National Blood Transfusion Centre (CNTS), was given the heaviest sentence last October with a four-year prison term. He entered the dock Monday flanked by two policemen and looking very pale and haggard. His lawyer said he had lost 17 kilos (two and a half stone) while in prison.

### U.S. sailor pleads guilty to gay killing

TOKYO (AFP) — A U.S. sailor was pleaded guilty to charges of murdering a homosexual shipmate in Japan, the U.S. Navy confirmed Monday. The testimony Monday by Terry Helvey, a 21-year-old airman apprentice at a U.S. military pre-trial session in nearby Yokosuka, came amid increasing debate in Washington on whether homosexuals should be allowed in the armed forces. Mr. Helvey from Westland, Michigan was accused at a U.S. Navy court-martial last year with beating to death 22-year-old seaman Allen Schindler of San Diego in a public restroom in Sasebo, southwestern Japan. Mr. Helvey was arrested last October after the body of Mr. Schindler was found lying in a pool of blood in the restroom near the U.S. Sasebo Naval Base in Nagasaki prefecture. Mr. Schindler and Mr. Helvey were shipmates on the amphibious assault ship Belleau Wood, which makes Sasebo its home port.